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Page 13

Won't Constitution protect believer? SC in Sabarimala case

Page 10

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498 MARKS LAASYA MEKALA HT. NO. 18128941
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CLASSROOM STUDENT

ALL INDIA OPEN CATEGORY RANK 1
Pasala Mohith
APPL. NO. 260310432915
Vijayawada Residential
CLASSROOM STUDENT

8 AIR
AARUSH SINGHAL
APPL. NO. 260310004785

11 AIR
YASHWARDHAN
APPL. NO. 260310789985*

15 AIR
J R MANIDEEP REDDY
APPL. NO. 260310031278
Sri Chaitanya Techno School Student

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*T & C apply | Note: Any inadvertent error published in this advertisement could be brought to our notice Note: The information is as per students feedback

*DLP-AITS Information so far.

BELOW 100 ALL INDIA OPEN CATEGORY RANKS 27
BELOW 1000 ALL INDIA OPEN CATEGORY RANKS 172
BELOW 100 ALL INDIA CATEGORY RANKS COUNT 95
BELOW 1000 ALL INDIA CATEGORY RANKS COUNT 640
TOTAL QUALIFIED RANKS FOR JEE ADVANCED - 2026 24,700
SCAN QR CODE FOR ADMISSIONS

JEE MAIN-2026 RESULTS KARNATAKA

87 RANK
ADITYASINGH
Ap.No.260310067528

135 RANK RAM NIKIL PUVVADI Appl. No. 260310117628
381 RANK TANMAY H.G Ap.No. 260310309804
497 RANK SUDHANVAN Ap.No. 260310216190
603 RANK AAKASH GOMATHI SURESH Ap.No. 260310031874
609 RANK ARCHIT SINGH Ap.No. 260310098051
855 RANK MALLADI SRIRAM Ap.No. 260310133464

867 RANK VIKRANT KONDURU Ap.No. 260310180457
878 RANK NANDITA S Ap.No. 260310189727
907 RANK SATVIK BANERJEE Ap.No. 260310076495
984 RANK PRANAV R I Ap.No. 260310346345
985 RANK SHIKSHITH S Ap.No. 260310283742
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DH
DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

Apple names John Ternus as CEO

Tim Cook to become executive chairman

Page 12

HC declines review petition on grading in SSLC exam

Students will be given marks and not grades this year

AMBARISH B
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka High Court on Tuesday refused to entertain the state government's petition to review the April 15 order pertaining to the valuation of third-language papers in the SSLC examinations.

Justice ES Indiresh observed that there is no error apparent in the order.

The students will be given marks, not grades, for the third language in the SSLC exam held this year.

On April 15, while disposing of the petition filed by three students, who appeared for the recently concluded SSLC examinations, the high court had directed the authorities to conduct the valuation as per the existing rules, as per the circular dated October 28, 2025.

The High Court had noted that this circular was prevailing on the date of the issuance of the notification pertaining to the examination for the academic year 2025-26.

During the hearing on Tuesday, Advocate General (AG) Shashikiran Shetty submitted that the petitioners had relied upon the newspaper report about the statement of the Minister for Primary and Secondary Education, Madhu Bangarappa, on the introduction of a grading system for the valuation of the third language in the SSLC examinations.

▸ SSLC exam, Page 6

CM to chair meet to discuss court directive

CM Siddaramaiah will chair a meeting on Wednesday to discuss the High Court's directive on providing marks for third language subjects. Minister Madhu Bangarappa said, "The HC has directed to continue the marks system. We will discuss this with the CM."

Details on Page 5

> "The notification pertaining to the draft rules was issued on April 10, while the SSLC examinations were over by April 2
> - JUSTICE ES INDIRESH

Will bomb Iran if no deal by today, warns Trump

Uncertainty over talks as neither side sends leaders to Pak

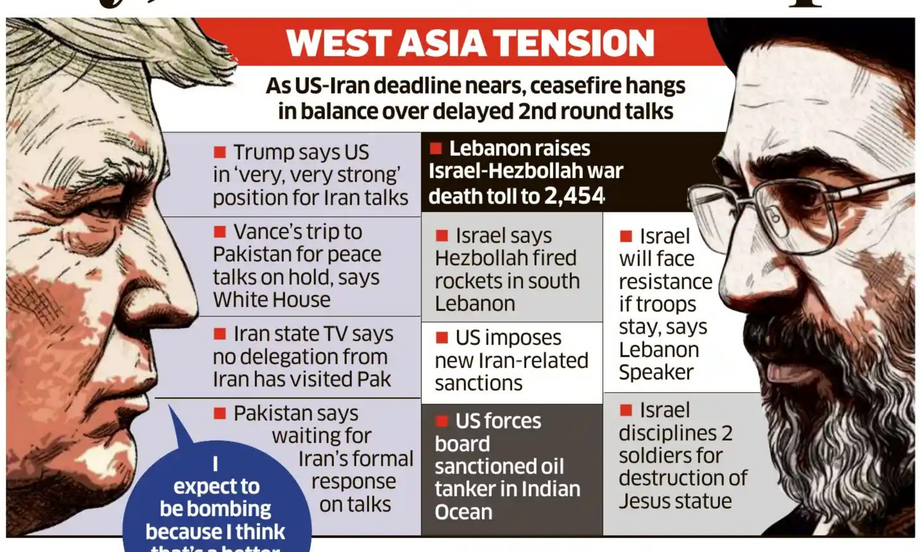
WASHINGTON/ISLAMABAD, AGENCIES

US President Donald Trump on Tuesday threatened to bomb Iran if they do not agree to a deal before the end of the two-week ceasefire on Wednesday, even as Pakistan urged the two sides to extend the truce and give diplomacy a chance.

Trump had indicated that his team of negotiators could reach Islamabad by Monday night for talks, while the Iranian delegation was also expected to travel to Islamabad, but so far, there was no sign of any peace maker in Islamabad.

Pakistan's Information Minister Attaullah Tarar on Tuesday evening said his country was still waiting for a formal response from Iran regarding its participation in the second round of talks with the US.

Underlining that the ceasefire ends at 4.50 am PST Wednesday, he said, "Decision from Iran to attend the talks before the end of the two-week ceasefire is critical."


WEST ASIA TENSION
As US-Iran deadline nears, ceasefire hangs in balance over delayed 2nd round talks
Trump says US in 'very, very strong' position for Iran talks
Vance's trip to Pakistan for peace talks on hold, says White House
Iran state TV says no delegation from Iran has visited Pak
Pakistan says waiting for Iran's formal response on talks
Lebanon raises Israel-Hezbollah war death toll to 2,454
Israel says Hezbollah fired rockets in south Lebanon
US imposes new Iran-related sanctions
US forces board sanctioned oil tanker in Indian Ocean
Israel will face resistance if troops stay, says Lebanon Speaker
Israel disciplines 2 soldiers for destruction of Jesus statue
I expect to be bombing because I think that's a better attitude to go in with

Iran's semi-official Tasnim news agency quoted a foreign ministry spokesman as saying that no final decision has been made yet regarding participation in peace talks.

Trump has said that if the ceasefire ends without an agreement, he is prepared to resume attacking Iran. "I expect to be bombing because I think that's a better attitude to go in with," he told CNBC's 'Squawk Box'.

When asked if he would extend the ceasefire with Iran to allow time for the peace talks to reach a deal to end the war, Trump said, "Well, I don't want to do that."

"They have to negotiate. And, you know, the one thing I'll say is this: Iran can get themselves on a very good footing. If they make a deal, they can make themselves into a strong nation again, a wonderful nation again," he added.

The President said he thinks the US is "going to end up with a great deal" with Iran to end the weeks-long war.

"I think they have no choice," Trump said when asked about his expectations from the second round of negotiations with Iran.

"We've taken out their navy, we've taken out their air force, we've taken out their leaders," he said.

"We've taken out their leaders, frankly, which does complicate things in one way, but these leaders are much more rational," Trump said. "It is regime change, no matter what you want to call it, which is not something I said I was going to do, but I've done it indirectly."

Amidst uncertainty over the US-Iran talks, Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar on Tuesday urged the two sides to extend the two-week ceasefire and give diplomacy a chance.

▸ Trump, Page 6

B'luru prison radicalisation case: NIA court sentences 7

BENGALURU, DHNS: A special NIA court on Tuesday convicted and sentenced seven persons in the Bengaluru prison radicalisation case linked with the Lashkar-e-Taiba. They were sentenced to seven years' rigorous imprisonment.

The convicted are Tadiyandavida Naseer alias T Naseer, Syed Suhail Khan, Mohammed Umar, Zahid Tabrez, Syed Mudassir Pasha alias Mudassir, Mohammed Faisal Rabbani and Salman Khan.

In the NIA case, prime accused T Naseer, a life convict in the LeT recruitment case and an undertrial in Bengaluru serial blasts case, used to select gullible undertrials and get them transferred to his barracks in the prison. He would radicalise, convert and recruit them for LeT's terror activities.

The NIA chargesheet stated that Naseer radicalised and recruited eight prisoners while they were lodged in Parappana Agrahara Central Prison since 2017.

Naseer was in contact with the co-accused through normal calls and encrypted communication platforms and destroyed the mobile phones and SIM cards on registration of the case. The seven were convicted for offences under IPC and UAPA.

Now, state-level exams for I PU from coming academic year

BENGALURU, DHNS: Students of I PU will also have to take state-level exams from the coming academic year. This is to prepare students for the 2nd PU board exams.

At present, 1st PU students have college-level exams. According to officials, from the 2026-27 academic year, the department of Pre University Education will set question papers at the state level and supply them to colleges across the state.

"Evaluation will be by the college. But the question paper will be set at the state level and the PUC 1 exam will be held on par with the PUC 2. This is to bring seriousness among students about board exams," said Bharath S, director Pre University Education Department.

"This will help assess learning levels," he added.

The department also plans to conduct two state wide preparatory exams for PUC 2 and one for PUC 1 students so that their exam readiness can be assessed.

▸ PU, Page 6

Woman blindfolds lover saying she has a surprise; sets him ablaze

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 27-year-old employee of a mobile network service provider was allegedly burnt alive by his lover in Byadarahalli on Tuesday.

When the victim, Kiran, arrived at his lover Prema's house, she allegedly told him she had a "surprise" and tied his hands and blindfolded him. She then reportedly poured petrol on him and set him on fire. Police said she was upset over Kiran distancing himself from her. Page 3

13 killed in explosion at fireworks unit in Kerala's Thrissur

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

At least 13 people were killed and several others injured in a blast at a fireworks manufacturing unit at Mundathicode in Kerala's Thrissur district on Tuesday afternoon, officials said.

The manufacturing unit was engaged to make fireworks for the Thrissur Pooram festival, scheduled to be held on April 26.

Firefighters douse the blaze at the cracker unit. PTI

Among the 13 injured, the condition of six persons, including the licensee of the fireworks unit, Satheesan, was stated to be critical.

Fire and rescue officials and ambulance teams from nearby areas quickly responded on information, and the injured were rushed to nearby hospitals.

Hospital authorities said 13 bodies were received, including dismembered remains, which are being counted as individual fatalities.

▸ Fireworks, Page 6

Quickly

Kharge calls Modi 'terrorist', says didn't mean it

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday created a stir by calling Prime Minister Narendra Modi a "terrorist" but clarified that he meant the latter was "terrorising" people and political parties. The BJP was quick to condemn Kharge's comments, terming the Congress an 'Urban Naxal Party'.

Details on Page 10

Bitcoin case: Probe in final stage, says home minister

Home Minister G Parameshwara on Tuesday said that investigation into the Bitcoin case is in the final stage and accepted that there may have been delays in gathering information due to the technical nature of the crime.

Details on Page 4

Bid to vandalise Manipur CM event; 1 injured

A Village Defence Force (VDF) personnel was injured in Manipur's Thoubal district on Tuesday after security forces opened fire on a mob that allegedly tried to vandalise an event attended by CM Yumnam Khemchand Singh.

Details on Page 10

Take action after 'due procedure', says Zameer

A day after KPCC's Muslim office-bearers asked the party high command to initiate 'sweeping action' against all those responsible for allegedly trying to sabotage the party's effort in the Davangere South by-poll, Zameer Ahmed Khan said action must follow "due procedure".

Details on Page 6

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SERPENT SCARE

Ruhani Raman, a resident of Gupta Layout off Southend Road near Jayanagar, captured two snakes mating in her neighbourhood on her mobile camera on Tuesday. The sight of the full grown snakes late in the afternoon sent residents into a tizzy. Residents called the BBMP to rescue the snakes, but the reptiles escaped into a drain by the time the team arrived.

Proposal to turn 700-acre HAL airport into global aerospace hub

10-year plan for defence–civil–space corridor at HAL Aerospace City District

BENGALURU, DHNS

A Government of Karnataka (GoK) undertaking has proposed an ambitious 10-year plan to transform the HAL Old Airport area into a global aerospace hub, aiming to position Bengaluru among the world's top aviation centres by 2036.

The proposal, titled 'HAL Aerospace Renaissance Masterplan (2026–2036)', recommends redeveloping nearly 700 acres of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) land into a next-generation aerospace innovation district. It envisions creating a USD 20 billion aerospace economy within a decade.

According to the document submitted by the Karnataka State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (KSIIDC) and the State Policy and Planning Commission, the project seeks support from the Union government for regulatory clearances, infrastructure funding, and a supportive policy framework.

The masterplan outlines a 10-year roadmap to establish the HAL Aerospace City District as India's first integrated defence–civil–space corridor. Key initiatives include the creation of advanced manufacturing clusters for airframes, engines, avionics, composites, and rotorcraft; development of HAL air mobility campuses; and the launch of a global training and skilling academy.

The proposal also emphasises building a strong ecosystem by involving global aviation majors such as Airbus, Boeing, Embraer, Rolls-Royce, GE Aerospace, and Safran, alongside Indian institutions, including the Indian Air Force, DRDO, and ISRO.

It recommends a diversified funding model comprising government investment, public-private partnerships (PPPs), global collaborations, and sovereign green finance instruments.

The Karnataka State Policy and Planning Commission, which mooted the proposal, expects the project to generate over two lakh high-skilled jobs and elevate Bengaluru into the world's top five aerospace cities by 2036. The document highlights alignment with national priorities such as defence modernisation, Aatmanirbhar Bharat, and aviation self-reliance.

"The HAL Aerospace Renaissance Masterplan is a national capability-acceleration platform, not merely a state-level initiative. It directly advances India's defence preparedness, aviation self-reliance, clean energy transition, and global aerospace competitiveness," said S Mohanadass Hegde, a member of the commission, in his report submitted to Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh.

PROJECT PHASES

2026–29: Regulatory approvals, land-use optimisation, and infrastructure groundwork.

2029–33: Development of MRO clusters, smart hangars, and digital aviation systems.

2033–36: Full integration of civil, defence, and space aviation systems, along with green energy adoption.

A file photo of the HAL Old Airport area.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Ambedkar Jayanti: All India Radio Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Employees Welfare Development Association; All India Radio, Lok Bhavan Road; 10.30 am.

Song for Baba Saheb, Annual Award Presentation: Kalagrama, Mallattahalli; 4 pm.

Inauguration: Renovated library and media centre; Alliance Française; 6.30 pm.

CULTURAL

88th Sri Ramanavami Music Festival: Sri Rama Seva Mandali Ram Navami Celebration Trust; Kote High School Campus, Chamarajpet; 5 pm.

State-level Kannada Ranga Competition-2026: 'Nagasampige' drama performance: Rangasthe; Yuvapatha, Jayanagar; 7 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST
Partly cloudy sky
TEMPERATURES

Maximum	36.6°C
Minimum	24.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	31%
Sunset (April 22)	6:33 pm
Sunrise (April 23)	6:04 am
Moonrise	9:19 am
Moonset	10:49 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

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Census work slows down as 6,000 enumerators skip duty

GBA brings in students to speed up work

BENGALURU, DHNS

The door-to-door census work is moving at a snail's pace, with officials in the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) flagging "unsatisfactory" field performance due to a large number of absent staff.

To address this, some corporations have decided to onboard students as enumerators to facilitate the timely completion of house listings and surveys.

In a press note, the commissioners of the city's five corporations said that nearly 6,000 personnel, including enumerators and supervisors, have remained absent from duty. In all, the GBA had deployed a total of 23,500 enumerators and 2,900 supervisors for the ongoing exercise. This includes government officials and teachers.

If the absenteeism continues, the GBA plans to file a police complaint as a last resort.

"We have already started issuing show-cause notices to absentees, alongside daily SMS reminders and follow-up calls urging them to resume work. If they fail to report immediately, we will initiate disciplinary action, including enforcement of "No Work, No Pay" and break-in-service orders," a senior GBA official said.

The commissioners have set April 24 as the deadline for absent personnel to return to duty, failing which strict action will be initiated.

The Bengaluru Central City Corporation has decided to onboard candidates who have cleared a minimum education qualification of PUC as enumerators. The corporation has scheduled a walk-in interview at the Puttanna Chetty Town Hall on Wednesday. It hopes to select approximately 1,000 candidates for the census work.

Officials said preference will be given to residents of constituencies such as CV Raman Nagar, Shantinagar, Shivajinagar, Chamarajpet, Chickpet, and Gandhinagar.

The selected candidates will be provided with an honorarium of Rs 9,000 for the first phase of work (up to May 15), which requires covering approximately 150–200 households. The second phase of Census 2027 will be conducted in February 2027, for which an honorarium of Rs 16,000 will be provided (for 150–200 households or a population of 750–800), officials said, adding the candidates will undergo training by master trainers on using the census mobile application and on enumeration procedures.

GBA Chief M Maheshwar Rao said that the other corporations will also adopt a similar approach to address the shortage of enumerators.

SENIOR GBA OFFICIAL

"We have already started issuing show-cause notices to absentees, alongside daily SMS reminders and follow-up calls urging them to resume work. If they fail to report immediately, we will initiate disciplinary action, including enforcement of "No Work, No Pay" and break-in-service orders.

Architect of Bengaluru's film society movement dies

BENGALURU, DHNS: George Kutty, veteran film activist and a driving force behind the Bangalore Film Society (BFS), passed away in the city on Monday after a period of illness. He was a key figure in South India's parallel cinema movement and founder-editor of the acclaimed film journal 'Deep Focus'.

George Kutty

Launched in 1988, the quarterly gained national prominence for serious film criticism and helped shape critics such as MK Raghavendra and Manu Chakravarthy.

From the early 1990s, Kutty anchored BFS, curating festivals that moved beyond commercial cinema to engage with progressive ideas, geopolitics and environmental themes, including water conservation.

His legacy continues to inspire independent film culture across South India even today.

HC: Adding offence to FIR does not nullify anticipatory bail

BENGALURU, DHNS

Adding an offence to an FIR subsequently will not mean that anticipatory bail loses its efficacy, the Karnataka High Court has said in a recent judgement.

The court said the prosecution can move an application for cancellation of bail in accordance with the law, if it so desires, and then file a remand application seeking police custody.

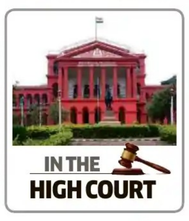
The petitioner, Aravind Kumar R, is Managing Director of Virtue Infra Builders Pvt Ltd in JP Nagar.

The JP Nagar police had registered an FIR in November 2025 based on a complaint by N Asha, alleging that Kumar and his colleagues cheated her by not handing over a house site even after receiving Rs 17 lakh.

Kumar moved the trial court and was granted anticipatory bail in December 2025.

During the subsistence of the anticipatory bail, JP Nagar police sought the court's permission to add offences under the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments (KPIDFE) Act.

After permission was granted and sections were added to the FIR, police filed a remand application before the very court that had granted anticipatory bail, seeking police custody for the purpose of investigation. The petitioner challenged the order granting custody for 14 days, notwithstanding the subsistence of the anticipatory bail.



Justice M Nagaprasanna noted that mere inclusion of an offence will not mean that the order granting anticipatory bail will vanish into thin air.

"While in subsistence (of anticipatory bail), merely because BUDS Act or KPIDFE Act was invoked, the court concerned could not have blissfully ignored its own order granting anticipatory bail to the petitioner. Anticipatory bail, by its nature itself, is in anticipation or apprehension of arrest, whether crime is registered or is to be registered. In the light of the subsistence of the anticipatory bail, petitioner having been handed over to police custody on a remand application is, on the face of it, illegal," the court said.

The court cited an Apex Court judgement and said that an anticipatory bail once granted would be deemed to be in operation, notwithstanding even the filing of the charge sheet, unless there is any supervening circumstance leading to cancellation of the anticipatory bail, on an application by the prosecution or by a petition before the superior court.

"While that may be the fact, the KPIDFE Act is added or inserted later by the permission of the court, not when the crime is registered and the anticipatory bail was granted. An addition of an offence to the FIR later will not mean that anticipatory bail would lose its efficacy. Therefore, it was for the prosecution to get the bail cancelled in accordance with law, if they so desire and then file a remand application seeking police custody."

60-year-old scooterist mowed down by BMTC bus

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 60-year-old scooterist died on the spot after a BMTC bus rammed into his vehicle near Hesaraghatta in north Bengaluru on Monday.

The deceased has been identified as Nagaraj, a resident of Basaveshwara Nagar.

The accident occurred around 10.45 am when a BMTC bus (Route 407), travelling from Nelamangala towards Yelahanka, collided with his scooter.

According to police, the impact was severe, leaving Nagaraj with fatal injuries that led to his instant death. Local witnesses blamed negligent driving by the bus driver for the crash. However, police are also probing whether the scooterist may have suddenly entered the main road from a side lane.

HOT SPELL

City sizzles as mercury rises 3°C above normal

BENGALURU, DHNS

The city continued to bake under a relentless sun as maximum temperature hovered around 36.5 degrees Celsius, a good 2.3 degrees Celsius departure from the normal for mid-April on Tuesday.

Residents seeking relief from the sweltering heat may have to wait another week for summer showers.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) predicted mainly clear skies and sustained high temperatures for another four days.

The Bengaluru KIAL Airport recorded a maximum of 36.8 degrees Celsius, while the HAL Airport station clocked 36.4 degrees Celsius. Both stations reported temperatures roughly 2 to 3 degrees Celsius above the seasonal average.

IMD Scientist CS Patil warned that heat will increase for another week, with temperatures in Bengaluru ranging between 36 and 37 degrees Celsius. Temperatures in the coastal and northern districts of the state will be high, ranging around 40 to 42 degrees Celsius. The highest recorded temperature for mid-April was 39.4 degrees Celsius, in 2023-24.

A strong anti-cyclonic circulation over central India is driving the conditions. Temperatures will be high not only during the day, but also at night, he said.

Tourists, shielding themselves from the harsh sun, covers up near the Vidhana Soudha. DH PHOTO/RANJU P

Heatwave grips state

Kalaburagi recorded the state's highest maximum temperature at 41.7 degrees Celsius, followed by Bidar at 41.6 and Raichur at 41.4 degrees Celsius. The IMD has issued a hot and humid warning for Coastal Karnataka, including Udupi and Dakshina Kannada, valid for the next five days.

Despite the heat, parts of the state witnessed spells of rain.

Dharwad recorded 12.6 mm of rainfall in the 24 hours leading up to Monday morning, while Shivamogga received 8.8 mm.

The forecast for the coming week suggests isolated light rain and thundershowers accompanied by gusty winds of 30 to 40 kmph may occur in Shivamogga, Chikkamagaluru, Kodagu, and Hassan.

In the city

For Bengalureans, the IMD indicated that dry weather is likely to prevail across the district for the week.

TENDER NOTICE
OFFICE OF THE DIGP GROUP CENTRE CRPF, YELAHANKA, BENGALURU - 560064

No. A.II-04/2026 GC BLR Bldg. Dated: 22/04/2026

Sealed tenders for plucking of fruit from plants inside the CRPF Camp premises at Yelahanka, Bengaluru.

1. Mango	- 269 Trees	2. Jack fruit	- 76 Trees
3. Tamarind	- 50 Trees	4. Chiku	- 181 Trees
5. Jamun	- 181 Trees	6. Coconut	- 53 Tress
Grand Total:	810 Trees.		

2. Sealed tender will be opened on 29/04/2026 at 1100 Hrs. Willing Firm/Contractor can participate in the tender by depositing an earnest money of Rs. 20,000/- only, After the opening of the tender, the responsibility of taking care of the above trees will be of contractor/firm. The DIGP-Cum-Estate officer has reserves the right to cancel the tender without giving any reason.

3. The Tender forms, details of earnest money with terms and conditions may be obtained from Group Centre CRPF Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560064 within 07 days from the date of advertisement.

Order By
DIGP, GC CRPF BENGALURU

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Website: www.uraniumcorp.in

RECRUITMENT OF TRAINEE
Advertisement No : UCIL-10-2026

Uranium Corporation of India Limited has invited online applications from Indian citizens for the post as follows:

Sl NO.	Name of the Post
01	Graduate Operational Trainee (CR&D)

Full details of vacancies viz. Qualification, Experience, Scale of pay etc are available at UCIL website **www.uraniumcorp.in.** Any queries/information/extension/ corrigendum etc. with respect to this advertisement shall be made available on the UCIL website **www.uraniumcorp.in** only

Last date of submission of online application is **23/05/2026**

CBC 48134/11/0007/2627

Government of Jharkhand
URBAN DEVELOPMENT & HOUSING DEPARTMENT
State Urban Development Agency
e-Procurement Notice

NIT No.: सुडा/अमृत/एजेंसी चयन/25/2026/नoविoआ0/08 Date: .20/04/2026

1.	Name of the Project	SELECTION OF FIRM/ AGENCIES FOR SURVEY, ASSESSMENT, COLLECTION AND RECOVERY OF HOLDING TAX, MUNICIPAL TRADE LICENSE FEE, WATER USER CHARGE & ADVERTISEMENT FEE UNDER MUNICIPAL AREAS OF JHARKHAND
2.	Estimated Cost	Open Tender
3.	Tender Fee & EMD (In INR)	Tender Fee: ₹ 10,000.00 EMD – ₹ 5,00,000.00 (Through online mode in the Jharkhand e-Procurement Portal (https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in).)
4.	Time of Completion	As mentioned in Timeline in RFP
5.	Date of Publication of Tender on website	20/04/2026, 17:00 hours
6.	Mode of submission of bids	e-Tendering (https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in)
7.	Date of Start of Submission of Bids (Online)	21/04/2026, 17:00 hours
8.	Last Date/Time for submission of bids (Online)	05/05/2026 up to 17:00 hours
9.	Pre-Bid Submission	Request to submit the pre-bid queries in the following e-mail Id: suda.goj@gmail.com by 24/04/2026 by 14.00 Hrs. Online (Video Conferencing) pre-bid meeting will be on 27/04/2026. VC link will be shared by e-mail to the bidders.The queries will be uploaded on the website under Tender section.
10.	Date of Technical Bid Opening (Online)	06/05/2026 at 17:00 hours
11.	Bid submission address (Online)	https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in
12.	Helpline no.	0651-2446640

Note: Only e-Tenders will be accepted.
Further details can be seen on website https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

PR 377999 Urban Development and Housing(26-27)#D

Sd/-
Deputy Director
State Urban Development Agency

PROVISION OF ELECTRONIC INTERLOCKING

E-Tender Notice No.: N_3_HQ_2026-27 Dated: 17-04-2026. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **Tender No.: N_3_HQ_EPC_EI_2026-27. Name of work:** Provision of Electronic Interlocking at Adina, Azamnagar Road, Khurial, Mangurjan, Tinmilehat, Chatterhat, Sudhani, Telta, Panjipara and Gaisal stations on HDN/HUN route of Katihar Division. **Tender Value:** ₹121,37,42,692.15/-.**Earnest Money:** ₹2,42,74,900/-. **Date & time of closing of tender:** At **17.00** hrs. on **04-06-2026**. The complete information with tender documents of above e-Tender will be available in website **www.ireps.gov.in**

General Manager (S&T), Maligaon
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
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S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

DRM/ENGG, South Eastern Railway, Chakradharpur acting for & on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders against Open Tender. Manual Offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **Sl.No.**-1. **Tender Notice No.: CKP-CENTRAL-26-27-03, Date: 20.04.2026. Name of work:** Manufacturing, supply and stacking of 65000 CUM machine crushed Track Ballast conforming to RDSO Specification (IRS-GE-1) with latest correction slips issued up to date of inviting of tender at all yards/Bridge approaches/nominated places as per direction of Engineer in Charge from Rourkela to Jharsuguda in Chakradharpur Division. **Tender Value:** ₹ 11,28,02,300. **EMD:** ₹ 22,56,100. **Date of Opening:** 12.05.2026. **Sl.No.**-2. **Tender Notice No.: CKP-WEST-26-27-01, Date: 20.04.2026. Name of work:** Through Sleeper Renewal (P) of 67.034 Tkm between station Rourkela-Jharsuguda Jn. (UP) by Track Relaying Train (TRT), Deep screening by BCM and T-28 and other miscellaneous works under the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN(West)/Chakradharpur in Chakradharpur Division. (3rd Call). **Tender Value:** ₹ 8,30,39,763.15. **EMD:** ₹ 16,60,800. **Date of Opening:** 11.05.2026. **Cost of Tender form:** ₹ 0 (for Sl.No. 1 & 2). The tender can be viewed at website **http://www.ireps.gov.in**. The tenderer/ bidders must have class-III Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered under on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering. All relevant paper must be uploaded at the time of participating in e-tendering. **Note:** e-Tender Forms shall be issued free of cost to all tenderers. (Authority– Railway Board's letter no. 2020/CE-I/CT/3E/GCC/Policy dtd. 16.07.2020). (PR-69)

EASTERN RAILWAY

The following E-tenders are invited by the Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/ (General), Eastern Railway, Sealdah, 2nd floor, Remote Control Building, Kolkata-700014 for the following works: **Tender No. : ELEG-OT-1321-2025-26 dtd. 17.04.2026. Particulars of the Work** : Provision of air-conditioning in Relay Room at PI/RRI/EI under the jurisdiction of SSE/Electrical/G/NH (NH,KNR,SEP), SSE/Electrical/G/SPR (D,BSD, DH, JNM, MPRD, LKPR), SSE/Electrical/G/RHA (KLNP, FLU, STB, DEB, PLY, SGV, CSZ, KRP) & SSE/Electrical/G/BT (HRO, CQR, HNB, SXC, BNJ, GUMA). **Tender Value:** Rs. 3,75,34,984.51. **Earnest Money** : Rs. 7,50,700/-. **Completion period :** 3 months. **Bidding start date:** 27.04.2026. **Tender closing date & time:** 11.05.2026, 14.00 hrs. Details of tender notice and corrigendum issued from time to time are available at website **www.ireps.gov.in** (SDAH-15/2026-27)

Tender Notices are also available at Website www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in

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CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Divisional Store Office Central Railway, Solapur for and on behalf of President of India invites online e-tenders on Railway's e-procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** from the capable, reputed firms/Contractors for the following works. **Tender No.:** 96265054, **Description: 1.** Manufacture and Supply of Galvanized Plate Screw for use with dowels conforming to RDSO Drg. No. T-3911. **Quantity:** 19630 Nos., **2.** Manufacture and Supply of Plate Screw for SEJ, Drg. No. T-3916. **Quantity:** 9750 Nos., **3.** Manufacture and Supply of Galvanized Plate Screw for use with dowels conforming to RDSO Drg. No. T-3912. **Quantity:** 50000 Nos., **4.** Manufacture and Supply of Galvanized Plate Screw for use with dowels conforming to RDSO Drg. No. T-3915. **Quantity:** 50000 Nos., **5.** Manufacture and Supply of Galvanized Plate Screw for use with dowels conforming to RDSO Drg. No. T-3913. **Quantity:** 10000 Nos., **Earnest Money (INR):** Rs. 1,60,600/-, **Date & Time of Closing of tender on www.ireps.gov.in:** 29.04.2026 after 11:30. The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website frequently before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigenda issued for this tender. Website: **www.ireps.gov.in.**

Sr. Divisional Materials Manager
DE/Sur-18 Central Railway, Solapur

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Karnataka begins process to frame bike taxi policy

BENGALURU, DHNS: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has initiated steps to develop a comprehensive and legally sound policy framework for bike taxi services in Karnataka.

In a letter dated January 2, the Chief Minister said that, in line with directions from the Karnataka High Court, he has instructed Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy and the Chief Secretary to begin drafting guidelines to enable bike taxi operations in the state.

He noted that the framework would align with judicial directives, public interest, and the need for safe, efficient and sustainable transport.

Siddaramaiah

"The objective is to ensure that such a framework is well-considered, balanced, and compliant with the rule of law," he said, adding that efforts are underway to finalise the policy at the earliest.

He also emphasised the government's commitment to promoting innovation and employment while ensuring regulatory compliance.

The move follows a letter from Congress leader Rahul Gandhi dated December 13, 2025, in which he highlighted the livelihood concerns of thousands dependent on bike taxi services in Karnataka.

He urged the state government to take a pragmatic approach to legalising and regulating the sector, noting its role in providing affordable last-mile connectivity and generating employment, especially for youth.

Rahul also called for a clear and enabling policy framework to address regulatory uncertainties and safeguard the welfare of workers in the sector.

Lover lures man to rented house, ties, blindfolds and sets him ablaze

She was upset that he distanced himself in recent times

BENGALURU, DHNS

A 27-year-old employee of a mobile network firm was allegedly burnt to death by his colleague at a rented house in Byadarahalli on Tuesday afternoon.

The deceased has been identified as Kiran. The accused, Prema R, has been detained by the Byadarahalli police.

Both are natives of Tumakuru and worked at an establishment near Bhashyam Circle in Basaveshwaranagar.

According to police, the incident took place around 2 pm at Prema's rented accommodation in Anjana Nagar on Magadi Road.

During spot inspection, officers found a cloth tied around Kiran's eyes, raising suspicion of foul play.

Fire and Emergency Services personnel said they received a distress call at 2.15 pm and rushed to the spot to douse the flames.

Initially, Prema told police that she was in the washroom when the incident occurred, attempting to portray it as a case of suicide.

During interrogation, however, Prema allegedly confessed to the crime. Police said she was upset that Kiran had been distancing himself in recent days and suspected he was avoiding her.

Preliminary investigations revealed that Kiran had visited Prema at her residence around 1.30 pm on Tuesday. Prema allegedly asked him to undress, claiming she had a "surprise" for him.

She then allegedly tied his hands with nylon rope and blindfolded him with a shawl before dousing him with a mixture of petrol and kerosene and setting him on fire. Kiran died on the spot.

Neighbours noticed smoke billowing from the house and initially suspected an LPG cylinder blast. They rushed to the second floor and knocked on the door.

Prema opened the door wrapped in a bedsheet and appeared disoriented. Police said her hair was partially burnt and she had sustained minor burn injuries.

Prema was living with her mother, Shanthamma, and elder brother, Girish, a driver by profession. Her father, Ramachandrappa, worked in the police department. Her sister stayed nearby. Her family members were away at the time of the incident.

She had rented the second floor of the building, while the house owner, Chetan Kumar, resided on the ground floor.

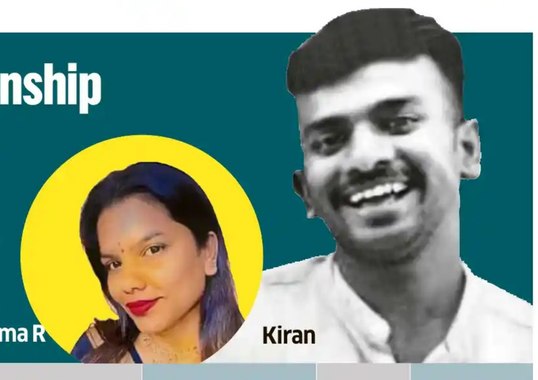
A case of murder has been registered and further investigation is under way.

It is said that she filmed the incident on her phone.

However, police have not confirmed this.

Years-long relationship

Police said the two had been in a relationship for nearly three years after separating from their previous partners. Prema allegedly planned to end her life after the incident, but later did not go through with it.



Prema R

Kiran

TIMELINE

- Kiran visits Prema at her residence on Tuesday afternoon.
- Prema allegedly asks Kiran to undress, saying she has a "surprise" for him.
- Moments later, she reportedly ties his hands with a nylon rope and blindfolds him using a shawl.
- Prema allegedly pours a mixture of petrol and kerosene over Kiran and sets him on fire.
- Kiran dies on the spot.
- Prema planned to die with him, but later backed out.

City bizman loses Rs 3.8 cr in fake investment scam

Police say suspects impersonated investment brokers

PRAWAL D'SOUZA
BENGALURU, DHNS

A 51-year-old businessman from Hebbal lost Rs 3.8 crore after cybercriminals, posing as a financial services firm, lured him into fake trading.

Police said the suspects impersonated Motilal Oswal and convinced the victim, Ramesh R (name changed), that he was dealing with a genuine company.

Ramesh came across an advertisement on Instagram on July 23, 2025, promoting block trading and investments. He clicked the link and was added to a WhatsApp group named "J-3 MOTILAL OSWAL WEALTH BUILDERS".

He was later contacted by Ananya Mehta and Rajath Raj, suspected to be fake identities. They began guiding him on investments and sharing trading tips through the group.

Initially sceptical, Ramesh was convinced after seeing screenshots showing profits earned by others in the group.

Investigators said these were proxies used by the cybercriminals to lure him further.

He was then asked to register on fake websites, share KYC details, and was given forged SEBI certificates to establish authenticity, police said.

Between July 23, 2025, and September 15, 2025, he transferred Rs 3.80 crore to multiple bank accounts.

When he attempted to withdraw the money, the request was denied. He was asked to pay a 30% service charge and other processing fees.

> "The victim waited, thinking he would get his money back before approaching the police on April 11. A case has been registered, and bank details have been sought to trace the money trail. Due to the massive delay in reporting the offence, recovery becomes challenging in cases like these.
> – POLICE OFFICER

HM orders probe into police harassment

BENGALURU, DHNS

Home Minister G Parameshwara on Tuesday sought a detailed report from DGP&IGP MA Saleem on harassment and misconduct allegations involving police officers.

G Parameshwara

Speaking to reporters, Parameshwara said he had taken note of media reports on the allegations.

DCRE Inspector Srinivas TR has made serious charges against his seniors, including continuous harassment.

Meanwhile, DCRE SP SS Kashi has written to the DGP, alleging misconduct by the Mangaluru City Police Commissioner and a few IPS officers, seeking 30 minutes to present details.

The Home Minister said both matters are being treated with seriousness and that he has directed the DGP to submit a comprehensive report examining the allegations and the circumstances surrounding the complaints.

"After receiving the report, we will verify the facts and take appropriate action based on the findings," Parameshwara said.

28-year-old woman ends life over husband's online rummy addiction

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 28-year-old woman died by suicide at her Mahadevapura residence, reportedly distressed over her husband's online rummy addiction.

The deceased has been identified as Kanaga, a resident of A Narayanapura. She was married to 32-year-old Shankar, an employee at an aluminium factory in Tamil Nadu.

The couple got married in 2023 and have a two-year-old son.

Police said the incident occurred on Sunday evening.

The victim's younger sister Kushbu learnt of the incident and alerted Mahadevapura police.

Preliminary investigation found that Kanaga was upset over Shankar's online rummy addiction, which led to frequent quarrels. Shankar allegedly sold gold ornaments given during the marriage by her parents and took loans from private financiers to continue gambling. As lenders began visiting their house seeking repayment, he would often go absconding.

The couple had recently shifted to Bengaluru from Tamil Nadu and had started working as fruit vendors. But Shankar continued the gambling habit. Kanaga is believed to have taken the extreme step when she was alone at home.

Based on a complaint, Mahadevapura police arrested Shankar on charges of abetment of suicide and remanded him to judicial custody.

GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT

NOTICE FOR ROLLING ADVERTISEMENT FOR TEACHING FACULTY POSTS AT TURA MEDICAL COLLEGE FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-27

No.Health.145/2026/2 Dated: Shillong, 20th April 2026

The **Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Meghalaya**, invites applications from eligible personnel for the posts of **14 Professors, 20 Associate Professors and 25 Assistant Professors on a contract basis** in these various disciplines for the **proposed Tura Medical College targeted to be operational during 2026-27 Academic Year.**

For detailed advertisement, including eligibility criteria, application form and other instructions, please visit the official website of the Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Meghalaya: **https://meghealth.gov.in**

Sd/-
Joint Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya,
Health & Family Welfare Department.

MIPR No. : 0165
Dated : 20/04/2026

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• KLES Smt. CB Ranamode School, Athani	100	• KLES School, Haveri	100
• KLES International School, Belagavi	100	• KLES English Medium School, Manjunath Nagar, Hubballi	100
• KLES School, Lingaraj College Campus, Belagavi	100	• KLES School, M R Sakhare CBSE, Hubli	100
• KLES International School, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru	100	• KLES CBSE School, Nipani	100
• KLES School, Chikodi	100	• KLES School, Saundatti	100
• KLES School, Dharwad	100	• KLES School, Nagarbhavi, Bengaluru	99.27
• KLES School, Gadag	100	• KLES English Medium School, Jule-Solapur	98.54

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LPG CRISIS : Two incidents of alleged illegal tree felling have come to light in the past month

Citizens turn to roadside trees for firewood

Make-shift stoves have cropped up outside PGs in Prashanth Layout Extension, Whitefield. SOURCE: X

RASHMI RAJAGOPAL
TEAM METROLIFE

The LPG crunch has had some unusual and disturbing consequences in some pockets of the city.

Over the past month, there have been two reports of alleged illegal tree felling. Witnesses claimed that the individuals involved are using them as firewood for cooking.

Activists and authorities worry that with the LPG crisis showing no signs of abatement, this could become more rampant if left unchecked.

In early April, a Kannada news channel reported that a darshini — Vijayalakshmi — on Bull Temple Road in Basavanagudi had employed contractors to bring down a large tree right in front of their establishment. Videos accessed by *Metrolife* show the chopped logs piled up near the entrance of the eatery. "When the news channel came and enquired, they found out that they did not have the necessary permissions to chop the tree," said Guruprasad Rotti, secretary of the Heritage Basavanagudi Residential Welfare Forum.

A tree stump sticking out of a tarred road, after the tree was chopped, in Prashanth Layout Extension. SOURCE: X

Typically, when trees are felled due to safety reasons (after securing the relevant permits), the wood is immediately cleared and auctioned by the GBA. "In this case, the wood was lying on the premises for a long time," Rotti stated. He also spotted cooks carrying some of the wood blocks into the restaurant. He added that there has been an increase in cases of tree felling in Basavanagudi. But whether they are all being used for firewood is unclear. "Some trees are 50-60 years old," he noted.

In another incident, the Whitefield Citizens Ward Committee posted on X that paying guest accommodations in Whitefield's Prashanth Layout Extension had resorted to similar measures to deal with the LPG crisis. "PG slums are taking Bengaluru back to the stone age, literally. They are now cutting roadside trees for firewood, and denuding the layout of greenery," the post said. Accompanying images show tree stumps sticking out of a tarred road, make-shift stoves at different locations with logs piled up on the side, and a man carrying firewood on his bike. It was posted on April 17.

AUTHORITIES SAY...

Range forest officer, Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), Asha Geetha, stated that officers from her department were sent to the spot (in Prashanth Layout) for verification. "If we receive a complaint, we will definitely take action. First an FIR is filed and then we decide on the penalty, which depends on multiple factors," she explained.

Sudharshan G K, deputy convener of forests, told *Metrolife* that a notice had been issued to the owners of the darshini a week ago. "They are yet to respond to the notice," he revealed. He also took note of the Whitefield incident and said that necessary action will be taken.

B'luru dining to the season's mood

Upscale restaurants are replacing static menus with constantly evolving offerings based on seasonal produce

RISHABH SHANKAR
TEAM METROLIFE

The rhythm of the seasons is refashioning Bengaluru's fine dining scene. Across the city, a growing number of restaurants are moving away from static menus, instead building offerings that shift with harvest cycles, climate and regional availability.

For chefs, seasonality is no longer a trend but a framework. The idea is not just freshness, but relevance.

Mango mille-feuille, a mango dessert is part of the current seasonal menu at Circa 11.

Two decades ago, Grasshopper was among the first in the city to experiment with a seven-course seasonal menu. Set on a farm, it focused on balance, serving dishes aligned with what the body needed in a given season. Today, many other restaurants are taking this idea further. Here are a few:

Waiting for the rains

For Chef Manu Chandra, seasonality is a natural route to creativity. At Lupa, the menu changes every three to four months, with the current summer menu set to transition into a monsoon edition by the end of June.

The summer spread includes dishes such as heirloom tomatoes and burratina — charred peach and kasundi-marinated tomatoes with elderflower-yuzu vinaigrette, passion fruit pearls, puffed black quinoa, pickled onions, jalapeño and arugula.

With the monsoon, the kitchen turns to ingredients brought in by the rains: mangoes in multiple forms, leafy greens, wild mushrooms, bamboo shoots and tubers, depending on availability.

Winter, in turn, brings its own palette: local berries, black and white carrots, ponk from Gujarat, avarekai from Karnataka, zucchini blossoms and a wider supply of molluscs. These ingredients, Chandra says, shape how menus are conceptualised and structured.

Working with local producers

At Nila, seasonality is tied closely to geography. The restaurant refreshes its menu every three months, each time focusing on a different region of India and its native ingredients.

Its current menu explores Northeast India, drawing from the biodiversity of the Naga region and its tribal food traditions. Dishes such as tree tomato custard with confit Naga wild garlic and perilla seed salsa bring into focus less-known ingredients, while a black soybean tart with a ragi base and a pickled persimmon kebab — using a 30-day pickling process — highlight indigenous produce and preservation techniques.

At Lupa, the summer spread includes heirloom tomatoes and burratina. CREDIT/SHAUN D'SILVA

The next menu, launching in early May, shifts to the Kerala backwaters. Founder Chef Rahul Sharma notes it will include dishes such as a dolma made with pickled mulberry leaves, rice and locally sourced jaggery. "Our research begins several months in advance, though it is not entirely linear. Working with local producers helps us source ingredients at peak harvest," he says.

Sustainability mantra

At Farmlore, seasonality operates at an even more granular level. Originally called Lore, the restaurant was renamed when founders Kaushik Raju and chef Johnson Ebenezer rooted it within a 37-acre farm, making produce central to its philosophy.

Here, menus follow micro-seasons, shifting every few weeks as specific fruits and vegetables come into harvest, supported by crop rotation practices. "You will get sweet watermelons just before the monsoon, followed by muskmelons after the rains," says Ebenezer. The restaurant also builds menus around global observances such as World Aquatic Animal Day and World Bee Day.

Sustainability is the king in the kitchen. They cook over mango wood fire, use solar energy and source produce from surrounding farms. The lunch menu changes weekly, while dinner evolves monthly.

Something light and fresh

For chef and founder Pradyumna Harithsa of Circa 11, seasonality is as much about behaviour as availability.

"A set menu assumes ingredients behave the same way all year, which they don't. Seasonality is about composition, water content, sugar levels, even how quickly something oxidises," he says, adding, "A summer tomato carries more sweetness, more water, more life. A seasonal menu allows us to respond instead of control, by keeping the kitchen alert."

The restaurant's current menu, Besigey, launched on April 15, is all about summer's demand for lighter, sharper food. The melon and burrata is probably the most direct expression of summer on the menu. Mango is everywhere right now, but Circa 11 is trying to play with contrasting textures to avoid the predictable sweetness.

POPCORN

Black humour

The fun news this week is that when Modi visited Tamil Nadu, his glowing skin suddenly appeared a shade dark. In the eyes of his spin masters, south India is the land of the dark-skinned, and how best to connect with the southerners than for Modi to take on their skin tone.... Whatever the politics of colour, you can be sure the business wizards are watching this game carefully. If Modi clicks, the market will be flooded with skin creams with such names as Dusky and Lovely and Mami Darkness Cream. If it doesn't, it means Modi's dusky has gone pusky.

Silk stories at a charming heritage railway station

Visitors can learn about the process of weaving at a new museum set up by INTACH

ANANYA KOPPA
TEAM METROLIFE

Surrounded by farms and retaining its traditional architectural style, Avatihalli Railway Station now invites travellers heading towards Nandi Hills or nearby towns to pause and learn about the journey of silk.

At the station, a new silk museum stands as part of INTACH's effort to restore old railway stations around Bengaluru.

The museum offers a simple, clear look at how silk is made, tracing the process from breeding silk moths to weaving sarees. Specimens and replicas of every stage of the silk moth, along with mulberry leaves and several other tools, are on display. Visitors can also see equipment such as a reeler for extracting yarn from cocoons and a silk handloom. The station's ticketing agent, also a former silk farmer, is present to guide visitors through the process. Information about nearby silk-producing areas, such as Shidlaghatta and Vijayapura, adds context, helping visitors understand the region's broader silk network. Karnataka produces nearly half of India's silk, making the museum especially relevant.

According to INTACH co-convenor Aravind C, the station, built in the 1920s, has long been linked to silk farming, a livelihood here since the time of Tipu Sultan. Turning it into a silk museum, he says, helps preserve both heritage and local knowledge.

The museum has tools and looms used in the process of weaving silk saris. DH PHOTO/RISHABH SHANKAR

The museum was inaugurated on Sunday, World Heritage Day, with actor Vinay Rajkumar and Sathish Mokshagundam, president of Visvesvaraya National Trust, as guests of honour. Around 50 people attended, including residents of nearby villages, silk farmers and school children. A nature walk around the station, led by Chandrashekar Koira from Naturalist School, with a brief description of the trees in the area, added to the experience. Several trains from Bangalore to Chikkaballapura and Kolar stop here, making the station accessible to travellers.

Documenting stories of oppression

PRANATI A S
TEAM METROLIFE

'Song of Ghetto' (Keri Haadu), directed by Chandrashekara K and produced by city-based arts collective Jangama, won the Best Documentary Award at the P K Rosy Film Festival. The festival is organised as part of the Vaanam Art Festival, an annual initiative during Dalit History Month by acclaimed filmmaker Pa Ranjith's Neelam Cultural Centre.

The 33-minute Kannada documentary traces the many socio-political realities faced by Dalits in contemporary India. The film focuses on the lives of a Dalit community in Dindagur of Hassan district — their resistance against untouchability and their fight to claim their fundamental right to enter their village temple.

The film shows how discrimination persists — from being denied access to temples and eateries to them being barred from drinking water from public tanks, and how caste segregation seeps in like DNA, with children from privileged castes refusing to mingle with their Dalit counterparts. Even as many believe education is a way out, caste continues to shadow their lives when they return to their hometowns. There is significant evidence to show that such practices are seen across the country and not limited to Dindagur.

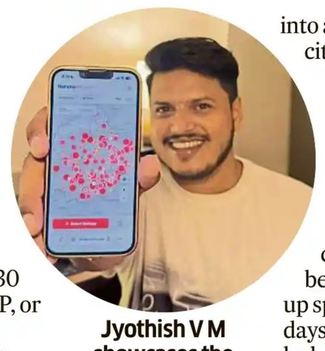
Chandrashekara shot the entire film on his mobile phone. During a workshop conducted by Jangama in the village, he began documenting people's stories, eventually shaping 17 hours of footage into this documentary. He aims to document more such instances of caste-based oppression across villages.

The Dalit community in Dindagur performing an anti-caste play.

App fix for city's black spots

TEAM METROLIFE

A Bengaluru-based product designer, Jyothish V M, created NammaKasa, a simple web app to tackle the city's persistent garbage black spots. Launched on April 8, the platform lets users report waste in under 30 seconds, without a login, OTP, or personal details.



Jyothish V M showcases the NammaKasa app, which allows users to report waste without requiring a login, OTP or personal details.

Users upload a photo, tag a nearby landmark, and indicate the scale of the garbage. The interface prioritises speed and accessibility as the app is designed to be intuitive across age groups.

Born of frustration with recurring garbage piles, the idea focuses on visibility. "Authorities clean up, but waste reappears nearby. Tracking is the real bottleneck," the 31-year-old says. What began as a personal documentation tool soon evolved into a public platform bridging citizens and civic bodies.

Although still in its early days and without formal collaboration, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) marshals have begun using NammaKasa to identify and clear waste. They have even been posting images of cleaned up spots over the past three days. BSWML has been particularly active in the Mahadevapura ward.

Jyothish hopes that with the traction the web app is getting online, as well as the attention from the BSWML marshals, the issue of black spots across the city will reduce. "Closing the loop was the biggest problem that I was trying to solve, but that is something that is happening from the BSWML side," he states.

To report blackspots on the website, visit nammakasa.in

EVENTS

Ceramic workshop

The National Gallery of Modern Art Bengaluru will host a Raku ceramic workshop at its premises in Vasanthnagar from April 22 to 26, 11 am to 4 pm. Check ngma_bengaluru on Instagram

Book talk

Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS) is hosting a talk on the book, 'Chronicles of a Global City: Speculative Lives and Unsettled Futures', on April 29, 6 pm, at IIHS, Sadashivanagar and on Zoom. Visit @iihs_in on Instagram for more details.

Online talk

'A Closer Look: Popular Prints of Modern Bengal', will feature curator Laura Weinstein discussing devotional artworks from 19th-20th century Calcutta on Zoom. Register at map-india.org

Two-day exhibition of silk weaves

A two-day exhibition titled 'Loom, Legacy and Landmark', will showcase the history and heritage of Kanjeevaram and Mysore silk weaves.

The exhibition is curated by The Registry of Saris and seeks to examine handwoven saris as "living records of cultural, social and commercial history". It marks the 105th anniversary of Vijayalakshmi Silks and traces the growth of the fourth-generation family-run business alongside the city.

On display are saris from the collections of Maharajkumari Kamakshi Devi Wodeyar and Princess Darshika Kumari, in addition to other archival pieces.

The exhibit also takes a deep dive into the wider subject of south Indian silk, from Karnataka's sericulture to the influence of Nalvadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar on royal weaving traditions.

April 23-24. At Sabha Blr, Kamaraj Road. For details, call 93416 21228.

WORLD BOOK DAY

What are bibliophiles reading now?

From Gaza to global markets, readers are picking up books around conflict and history

TINI SARA ANIEN
TEAM METROLIFE

Ahead of World Book and Copyright Day on April 23, English and Kannada bookstore owners told *Metrolife* what Bengalureans are picking up to read. From country histories to narratives on conflict, reading choices appear increasingly shaped by global events.

Following a major conflict involving the United States and Israel that began on February 28 this year, unrest spread across the Middle East and beyond. In light of this, bookstore owners say titles on countries, conflict, and historical context are now among the most sought-after reads.

At Aakruti Pustaka, books such as 'On Palestine', 'Footnotes in Gaza', and 'We Are Not Numbers' have been popular over the past one-and-a-half months. Owner Guruprasad D N says readers are actively seeking "books on Gaza, Israel, and Palestine, especially those that explore historical context and the ongoing conflict." He estimates an approximate 50% rise in sales of such titles, with readers largely in the 20-35 age group driving this demand.

Alongside historical and analytical works, there is a growing interest in contemporary literary responses, including poetry from conflict zones, such as that of Mosab Abu Toha.

At Select Book Shop, however, the trend is slightly different. Owner K Sanjay says overall sales have remained steady, with no significant spike linked to current global conflicts. "I expected people to come looking for books on war, but that hasn't really happened here," he says. However, some younger readers have been asking for works by Edward Said, particularly 'The Question of Palestine'.

At Blossom Book House, a few of the top customer picks are '1929: The Inside Story of the Greatest Crash in Wall Street History' and 'A Historian in Gaza'.

At Blossom Book House, demand has been more event-driven and title-specific, particularly around the Middle East. A recent surge was seen for '100 Years of Palestine', which became a "sensational seller" during earlier phases of the Gaza crisis. Currently, books such as 'Israel: A History' are seeing steady demand.

Interestingly, beyond political nonfiction, older literary works are resurfacing. "For reasons unclear, 'Reading Lolita in Tehran' has seen renewed interest, with around 25-30 copies sold in a week," says Mayi Gowda, owner of Blossom Book House. He also notes a rise in books that explain economic crises through historical lenses. Titles such as '1929: The Inside Story of the Greatest Crash in Wall Street History' by Andrew Ross Sorkin have gained traction over the past month. These reads are most popular among those aged 25 to 40, he adds.

At Kannada stores

At Bahuroopi, an online bookstore and publishing house, cofounder Sreeja notes a shift in another category. "Sales of finance and money management books have dipped over the past one-and-a-half months, in line with the stock market downturn," she says. At Beetle Book Shop, overall business has slowed, with sales dropping by nearly 70% over the past two months. The store has observed an uptick in sales around Ambedkar Jayanti, says owner N Dhananjaya. Titles such as 'Ambedkar Jagattu', 'Jaathi Vinasha', and 'Shudra Bandaya' have been selling well, he adds.

Move to drop sugar disclosure on beer labels flayed

'Commercial interests getting priority over consumers' health'

ASHWIN B M
BENGALURU, DHNS:

The proposed amendments to the excise rules could see the removal of mandatory sugar content disclosures on beer and liquor labels. The move, outlined in a draft notification issued by the finance department, has sparked concerns regarding public health and transparency.

Sources from the industry suggest the disclosure was cited as a reason for falling sales.

However, the health implications are significant. For instance, a 650 ml bottle of beer with an 8% sugar content contains more than 50 gm of sugar, a detail that would be hidden from consumers under the new rules.

According to the draft notification dated April 10, the government intends to amend the Karnataka Excise (Brewery) Rules, 1967 and the Karnataka Excise (Bottling of Liquor) Rules, 1967.

The draft notification says, "In clause (f), the 'Note' and entries relating thereto shall be omitted." This section pertains to liquor prepared from malt or grain, where sugar addition is capped at 25% by weight (of the malt), including ale, porter and stout.

The government has invited objections or suggestions regarding th draft rules within 10 days.

The proposed withdrawal has drawn sharp criticism from public observers.

Many argue that the move prioritises industry interests over consumer health.

"The more regressive move by the Karnataka government has been the withdrawal of mandatory sugar disclosure on the beer label," said Aruna Urs, founder of Huli spirits distillery, in a post on X.

Aruna said drinking three beers of a typical local brand can introduce about 150 gm of sugar into your system, which will take a toll on the consumer's health.

In contrast, many foreign premium beers specify on their labels that they contain 0% sugar.

Just a year ago, the department had directed brewers that if sugar is used as a raw material, it must not exceed 25% of the total weight of the malt. Also, it must be declared in the ingredients' list, with the health of consumers in mind.

Feedback invited

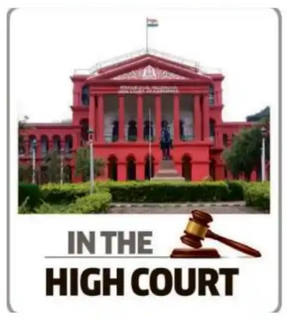
The government has invited objections or suggestions regarding these draft rules before the 10-day expiry period.

Additional Chief Secretary (Finance) Ritesh Kumar Singh told *DH* that the industry welcomed this move.

"This has been a long-standing demand from the industry," he said.

"It was examined by the expert resource mobilisation committee as part of far-reaching excise reforms. This draft report will now be put forward for public comment".

BMIC: SC bins NICE plea against K'taka HC's order



NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court has declined to entertain a plea by Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprise (NICE) Ltd against the Karnataka High Court's order quashing the acquisition of land to the extent of one acre in Bengaluru for the Bangalore Mysore Infrastructure Corridor (BMIC) Project.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Kumar and Vipul M Pancholi dismissed the special leave petition filed against the High Court's judgment of February 24.

Upon hearing senior advocates Mukul Rohatgi and Atmaram Nadkarni for NICE, the bench, in its order on April 20, said, "We find no good ground and reason to interfere with the impugned judgment passed by the High Court."

Senior advocates Shashidhara H N and Kiran Suri represented respondents Rathna S Reddy and others.

In the case, after finding an unexplained delay of 17 years among other reasons, the High Court quashed the preliminary notification and final notification issued in 2006 and 2008 respectively under Sections 28(1) and 28(4) of the KIAD Act insofar as they related to the land bearing Survey No 41/5 measuring 1 acre Thalaghattapura Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk.

The High Court also noted that, in 2025, the BMICP planning authority stated that the land was not required for it. Besides, it also found that the acquisition authority has passed no award, nor has any possession been taken in accordance with the law.

Delegation seeks HC bench in coastal K'taka

MANGALURU, DHNS: The members of Coastal Karnataka High Court Circuit Bench Horata Samithi have submitted a memorandum to Chief Justice of High Court Justice Vibhu Bakhru seeking the setting up of a permanent High Court bench in coastal Karnataka.

Till the setting up of a permanent bench, a circuit bench, initially comprising one division bench and two single benches can be established in Mangaluru, the delegation of the Samithi, informed Justice Vibhu.

The Chief Justice, after discussing the matter in detail, promised to look into the demand and to seek a report on availability of the existing facilities and requirements, if any, for any additional infrastructure.

In order to inspect the availability of infrastructure, Justice Bakhru said he would form a committee for the establishment of a circuit bench.

SMOOTH OPERATORS

Imitators pull wool over Mysore Silk customers' eyes

T R SATHISH KUMAR
MYSURU, DHNS

Fakes and imitations are encashing on the name, fame and demand of the century-old Mysore Silk sarees brand, misleading buyers in stores and on online platforms.

Mysuru silk sarees, going by the brand name Mysore Silk, the pride of Karnataka, trace their origin to 1912 and are available only in Karnataka Silk Industries Corporation (KSIC) showrooms. But many traders sell sarees, claiming they are Mysore Silk, especially around tourist attractions of Mysuru. Of late, sarees are sold even on online platforms, claiming to be Mysore Silk, which has a geographical indication (GI) tag. A GI tag acts as an intellectual property right, ensuring only those authorised use the name.

The Mysore Silk outlet at the KSIC premises in Mysuru. DH PHOTO

Showrooms of imitation or fake are concentrated around tourist attractions like Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens (Mysuru Zoo), KR Circle near Mysuru Palace, St Philomena's Church, Jaganmohan Palace, Suburban Bus Stand on Bengaluru Road, on Chamundi Hill Road and in buildings of well-known hotels.

The traders play up Mysuru, Karnataka or acronyms that resemble KSIC - like KSC, KSC Silk, KSCE or KSCI – to attract gullible buyers. Some of them use logos like 'rajahamsa; or 'howdah elephant', to relate to the royalty and Mysuru. Some prominently display the 'Silk Mark' logo, but Mysore Silk does not display it. While KSIC showrooms are modest, these shops are huge and attractive.

Cost up to Rs 3.5 lakh

KSIC managing director Zehera Naseem said sarees without zari are available from Rs 11,221. "Those with embroidery start from Rs 21,767, while gold zari sarees are in the range of Rs 18,660 to Rs 3.5 lakh. The zari, gold-plated on silver, will never tarnish and looks fresh even after long use," she said.

In the 2025–26 fiscal, KSIC produced 1.10 lakh sarees, while demand is nearly 50% higher, but the corporation cannot easily scale up capacity. As KSIC manages the entire process in-house, from silk thread procurement and reeling to the final stage, expansion is gradual.

Managing director Zehera Naseem says, "By adopting new technology, we are introducing bigger designs, for much higher value sarees."

Zehera said, "We are initiating legal action against those selling fake KSIC-Mysore Silk sarees in shops or through online platforms, by filing complaints. We have filed complaints with the Bengaluru Crime Branch (Cyber Crime) against several online platforms and have already removed over 40 such accounts. We will further take legal action."

An insider in the travel business said the turnover of the fake sarees is difficult to estimate as there are numerous impersonating shops, but it could cross Rs 100 crore per annum.

Marketing manager D Naveen Kumar said people generally know that Mysore Silk sarees are the best and are available only in KSIC showrooms. "There is a huge demand for our sarees, indicating awareness among the people about the quality of our sarees. Still, some traders dupe customers by selling their ware as Mysore Silk," he said.

Zehera said, "KSIC produces 100% pure silk sarees – from the finest quality of natural silk yarn, obtained from cocoons reared in the old Mysuru region - with pure gold (gold-plated on silver) zari. The silk weaving factory in Mysuru was established in 1912 by then Maharaja Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar with 10 looms."

Initially, the silk fabrics were manufactured and supplied to members of the royal family and to personnel of their armed forces, she said.

"The looms and preparatory machines were imported from Switzerland and were the first of their kind in India. After Independence, the state sericulture department took control of the silk weaving factory. In 1980, it was handed over to KSIC, a Karnataka government enterprise," she added

Naveen Kumar said there are six branches of KSIC in Bengaluru – Jubilee Showroom near Public Utility Building on MG Road, in Basaveshwaranagar, on KG Road, in Gandhi Bazaar, at Malleswaram Circle and in Jayanagar. The five KSIC branches in Mysuru are on the premises of Silk Weaving Factory on Mananthavadi Road, near Mysuru Zoo in Indiranagar, Visvesvaraya Complex at KR Circle, Kalidasa Road and on KSTDC Mayura Hoysala Hotel premises on Jhansi Lakshmi Bai Road. Besides, there are branches in Channapatna, at Davangere and in Hyderabad.

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Two boys drown in quarry pit

ILKAL (BAGALKOT DISTRICT), DHNS: Two teenagers from the town drowned in the water collected in a granite quarry on Tuesday afternoon.

The deceased are Vijayamahantesh Nagaraj Walikar (16) and Vinayaka Bheemappa Gollara (14).

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"In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety." Psalm 4:8

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Sameer Anthony Sequeira

16.11.1962 - 19.04.2026

Son of Late Frederick & Zita Sequeira
Loving husband to Beatrice,
Father to Natalia, and
Brother to Victor, Vida, and Vinoo

Family and friends are invited to pay their respects at 2:30 PM at St. Patrick's Church, Brigade Road, Bangalore, on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, followed by Holy Mass at 3:00 PM

Burial at Hosur Cemetery (Gate 6), Off. Hosur Road, Bangalore, at 4:30 PM

Bitcoin case: Investigation is in final stage, says home minister

Cops told to step up probe; file chargesheet quickly

BENGALURU, DHNS

Home Minister G Parameshwara on Tuesday said that the investigation into the Bitcoin case is in the final stage and accepted that there may have been delays in gathering information due to the technical nature of the crime.

"A Special Investigation Team (SIT) was formed regarding the Bitcoin scam. The investigation is in its final stage. It has a national and international scope. Information must be gathered on many issues to submit the final report. Officials have stated that it is in the final stage," Parameshwara said.

"They will investigate till the necessary information is found. Since it is a technical matter, I feel there has been a delay in gathering information. Instructions have already been given to complete it quickly and file an interim chargesheet," he added.

Responding to a question on the ED's raids against Congress MLA N A Haris' sons in connection with the Bitcoin case, Parameshwara said that he does not know "the inside details".

"The ED officials themselves should provide information on what matter the raid was conducted and what was found. Usually, they release a press statement. We must wait until then. If we give statements in the meantime, it becomes irrelevant," he said.

"If the ED has taken information from the police department regarding this case, I cannot say anything. They have the authority to take information. They might have taken information regarding this same issue. If it's not this issue but something else, the ED itself will have to clarify," he added.

The ED, which launched the raids on Mohammed Haris Nalapad and his brother Omar Farook Nalapad on Monday morning, concluded the searches late in the evening.

The search also covered Aqeeb Khan, the grandson of former union minister K Rahman Khan and nephew of Congress leader Mansoor Ali Khan.

An official statement is awaited, while officials continue to search the residence of Srikrishna Ramesh alias Sriki, the prime suspect, in Jayanagar.

Attempt to damage Haris' image, charges Nalapad

Speaking to the reporters, Congress leader Mohammed Nalapad charged that the ED raid is an attempt to damage the image of his father, MLA N A Haris.

"I have known Sriki, but there is no business transaction between us. This case dates back to 2021. Had I done anything wrong, the BJP government would have sent me to jail by now. It would not have waited for six years," he said.

He suspected the raid to be "an internal conspiracy to prevent his father, Haris, from getting a ministerial post."

"The only way to bring him down is to target me," he alleged.

Anthem on Western Ghats soon: Task force chief

SHIVAMOGGA, DHNS: Mohammed Tabrez Alam Shariff, chairman of the Karnataka State Western Ghats Conservation Task Force Committee, said on Tuesday that an anthem on the Western Ghats to highlight the importance of its biodiversity and create environmental awareness among the public would be released soon.

He said the aim was to reach the younger generation through the anthem.

Addressing a press conference here, he said a number of projects were planned by the task force for the conservation of the Ghats, one of the eight major biodiversity hotspots in the world. It has been recommended to build 'green check-posts' at the entrances of the Ghats area on the lines of Ooty and Kodaikanal in Tamil Nadu, Shariff said.

This will help in creating a plastic-free zone. Steps will be taken to control and regulate excessive movement of tourists in Kodagu and Chikkamagaluru districts, he added.

A proposal had been submitted to establish a separate museum and research institute to showcase the history and diversity of this region, the chairman said.

VIT to offer B.Tech course for Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles staff in Pune

VIT and TMPV officials ink MoU for B.Tech (Manufacturing Engineering) course.

Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Limited (TMPV). This collaboration is designed to foster continuing education.

The MoU was signed by Dr T Jayabarathi, Registrar, VIT and Sitaram Kandi, Chief Human Resources Officer, TMPV at their premises in Pune on April 16, 2026.

VIT will conduct B.Tech (Manufacturing Engineering) for TMPV employees of the Ranipet plant from the academic year 2026-27.

The MoU was formalised by VIT's Chancellor Dr G Viswanathan and Sitaram Kandi. TPMV's VP-Operations Pramod Choudhury, Senior GM - PV Operations Neeraj Agarwal, GM - Human Resources Vivek Bindra, GM – Learning and Development Dr Ranga Gunti and Marcel Fernandes, GM and Head - Early Careers & Campus Programs Rajiv Ranjan, and Dy GM - HR Abhyudai Dwivedi were present.

VIT's Vice Presidents Dr Sankar Viswanathan and Dr Sekar Viswanathan, VC Dr Kanchana Bhaaskaran, Director – CPD Dr Samuel Rajkumar, Dean – SMEC Dr Kuppan P, Asst. Director – CDC Dr Gaurav Sushant, and Regional Placement Officer - Pune Sabde Amit Suresh attended.

Curated by DH Brandspot

Most tanks have water even in summer, says Boseraju

BENGALURU, DHNS: Minor irrigation tanks across the state hold 'excellent' water storage catering to an agricultural command area of an estimated 4.45 lakh hectares, the government said on Tuesday.

According to Minor Irrigation Minister N S Boseraju, a vast majority of the 3,788 tanks under his department have good water levels.

"Even in the midst of summer, 165 tanks in the state are full. Furthermore, 1,355 tanks have retained more than 51% capacity. Similarly, 1,143 tanks have maintained a water level of up to 50%, while 959 tanks are at roughly 30% storage capacity," Boseraju said in a statement.

Davangere district leads the state with 27 tanks full even during summer, Boseraju said. Chikkamagaluru has 46 tanks full. Other top-performing districts include Hassan, Tumakuru and Kolar.

Boseraju said 1,184 tanks are being actively filled through 145 tank-filling lift irrigation projects. He attributed the water retention to a combination of good monsoon rains and government's interventions.

"By ensuring continuous flow of fresh water to these tanks through lift irrigation projects, as well as supplying treated and surface water to the plain (Bayaluseeme) districts, we have taken measures to prevent them from drying out in the harsh summer months. This water wealth in our tanks will bring direct, tangible benefits to lakhs of farmers across 4.45 lakh hectares of command area," the minister said.

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Name: G. Mani Megalai
Mobile: 9483648876/ 9986023715
NOTICE DATE: 22-04-2026.
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Notice is hereby given to the general public that my client, The Managing Director, M/s MABA Corporate Services Pvt. Ltd., has entered into an Agreement of Sale with Mr. Aswathnarayana and Mr. M. Timmaiah, in respect of the following residential plots bearing Plot Nos. 713, 517, 705, and 313, situated in the residential layout known as "SAI GANGOTHRI HILL CREST," formed in Sy. Nos. 102/1 and 103/1, situated at Ramasandra Village, Visweshwaraiah Layout, Bengaluru – 560099.
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CHANGE OF NAME
I, CHINNAPPA A P, residing at No. 715, New No. 355 Vaibhav, 1st Cross, Vinayaka Layout, Horamavu, Bengaluru- 560043, declare that name of my wife's has been wrongly written as SUSEELA CHINNAPPA in my PPO No.0814B/ 0100/1986, the actual name of my wife's is VASANTHI B A, which may be amended accordingly. vide affidavit dated 21-04-2026 sworn before notary Uday Kumar K, Bengaluru.

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After 5-yr wait, Ch'nagar oxygen tragedy victims get job offer letters

GUNDLUPET (CHAMARAJANAGAR DIST), DHNS: After a long wait of five years, people who lost their family members due to shortage of medical oxygen during the Covid-19 at Chamarajanagar district hospital, got their appointment orders on Tuesday. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah issued employment letters to them at an event in Gundlupet taluk.

It may be mentioned that the Oxygen tragedy claimed the lives of 30 people on May 2, 2021. Five years later, after multiple petitions and demonstrations, the Karnataka government has given jobs to members from 25 families.

Compromise politics inevitable for CM: Jarkiholi

MYSURU, DHNS: Public Works Minister Sathish Jarkiholi said that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is indulging in compromise politics.

"It is inevitable. Can't be doing strict politics always," he told reporters here on Tuesday.

Regarding the Davangere byelection, he said, "I have told the party leaders to stop issuing notices to Muslim leaders, as it would impact the Muslim votebank. I have told them that it is not the right time to assess who has indulged in anti-party activities? Let's get the results first and later, if any one has erred, action can be initiated."

Regarding the suspension of MLC Abdul Jabbar, he said, "Many get suspended and their suspension is revoked. Jabbar will also return."

Kheny seeks probe into 'irregularities' in KKRDB

BENGALURU: Businessman Ashok Kheny, a former Bidar South MLA, has petitioned Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot seeking a high-level investigation by the CBI or such other agency into "irregularities and misgovernance" in the Kalyana Karnataka Region Devleopment Board (KKRDB).

In his nine-page petition, Kheny pointed out that the government allocated approximately Rs 26,878 crore to the KKRDB since November 2013.

"Despite this substantial allocation, there is little visible evidence of positive transformation in the region," he stated. "This is primarily due to the absence of a scientific perspective plan/sub-regional plan that integrates economic planning with spatial planning. In the absence of such an integrated framework, prioritisation of projects has been arbitrary, resulting in ad-hoc and discretionary fund allocations rather than outcome-driven development," he stated. Kheny was the Bidar South MLA between 2013 and 2018.

3.3 lakh students to appear for KCET beginning today

KEA sets up central command centre in Bengaluru

BENGALURU, DHNS

As many as 3,30,479 students have registered for the 2026 Karnataka Common Entrance Test (KCET) scheduled on April 22-24, according to the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA). While 1,86,099 girls have registered for the exam, a total of 1,44,380 boys will be appearing in this year's KCET. The total figure also includes 970 specially-abled candidates.

The examination, a gateway for admission to professional courses including engineering, will be conducted at 745 centres across the state. Each centre will be equipped with closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras for surveillance and facial recognition systems for attendance.

The Kannada language examination for Gadinadu and Horanadu candidates is scheduled on April 22, and will be held at five centres across Bengaluru, Mangaluru, Vijayapura and Belagavi. Physics and Chemistry exam will be held on April 23, the test for Mathematics and Biology will be held on April 24.

KEA Executive Director H Prasanna said, "Arrangements have been made to ensure tight security at all centres to prevent untoward incidents. We will monitor proceedings at all 745 centres through webcasting. Deputy commissioners and Zilla Panchayat CEOs have been entrusted the task of overseeing arrangements in their respective districts."

A central command centre has been set up at the KEA's central office in Bengaluru. In Bengaluru alone, 77,604 candidates will appear for the exam at 163 centres.

Hearing aids

Those using hearing aids have been asked to report two hours prior to the start of the exam for verification, while centres deemed 'sensitive' have been provided signal jammers to prevent malpractice.

Calling upon candidates to report to their respective centres well before the exam, Prasanna added, "Facial recognition and QR code verification will ensure there is no scope for impersonation. We will use the same systems during the admission process as well."

Prasanna urged students who either registered a poor score in their first II PU exam or are writing the second exam not to skip KCET. "Marks from second exam will be considered for calculation of their CET results," he said.

KCET CHECKLIST

DRESS CODE

For the first time, each centre will have a dress code officer to avoid confusion on who will take a call on the dress code.

- Wear half-sleeve clothing
- Clothes without collars preferred
- Simple trousers with no or minimal pockets
- Kurta-pyjama and jeans not allowed
- Shoes are prohibited

STRICTLY BANNED ITEMS

Mobile phones, Bluetooth devices, Microphones, Earphones, Any electronic gadgets

CANDIDATES SHOULD CAREFULLY READ THE DRESS CODE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE KEA WEBSITE BEFORE ATTENDING.

FILL OMR SHEET CAREFULLY

Candidates must fill the OMR sheet accurately

- Name
- CET number
- Question paper version code
- Question paper serial number
- All details must be correctly filled. Shading mus be done properly.

Mistakes in these details have previously caused result issues, so candidates must be careful. A sample OMR sheet is available for download, along with the admit card, for practice to avoid errors, KEA has said.

Mekedatu DPR to Centre in 10 days, says Shivakumar

'Union ministers from state should get it approved'

MYSURU, DHNS

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar said that the Detailed Project Report (DPR) of the much-awaited Mekedatu reservoir project will be submitted to the central government in 10 days, and Union ministers from Karnataka should get it approved.

"If they have commitment, Union Ministers H D Kumarswamy, Shobha Karandlaje, and Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka should cooperate with the state government to implement the project," he said.

Shivakumar

He said this after laying the foundation stone and launching several development projects with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah here.

Shivakumar, who also holds the water resources portfolio, said Karnataka is supposed to release 177.25 tmcft of the River Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu during one water year from June to May, as per the final verdict of the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal. But, in the absence of a balancing reservoir downstream, excess water has been reaching Biligundlu whenever Karnataka receives copious rainfall, he added.

In the past two years alone, 305.61 tmcft (128.36 tmcft excess) of water reached Tamil Nadu during June 2024 to May 2025; 667.24 tmcft (489.99 tmcft excess) reached the neighbouring state during June 2022 to May 2023, he said.

"The Mekedatu dam can store 60 tmcft of water, which will help to meet the irrigation and drinking water needs of the region. It will also help to release water to Tamil Nadu as per the quota, even during the years when there is deficit rainfall," Cauvery Neeravari Nigam officials said.

The Congress party had taken out 'Namma Neeru Namma Hakku' foot march demanding the implementation of the Mekedatu project in 2022. Former prime minister H D Deve Gowda has been a strong proponent of the project for a couple of decades.

3rd language grade row: CM to chair meeting today

Govt played with future of lakhs of children: Suresh Kumar

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will chair a meeting on Wednesday to discuss the High Court's directive on giving marks for third language subjects in the Class 10 examination.

Speaking to reporters on Tuesday, School Education and Literacy Minister Madhu Bangarappa said that the chief minister has convened a meeting on Wednesday. "The High Court has directed to continue the marks system for this year. We will discuss the issue with the chief minister," said the minister. He said the meeting will also disuss whether or not to file an appeal against the order of the High Court.

Meanwhile, the minister assured the students that there will not be any delay in the announcement of SSLC results. As per the earlier announcement, the results are to be announced on April 24. But, according to sources, it is likely to be delayed by a day or two as the special Cabinet meeting has been called on April 24 to discuss the internal reservation and KCET exams are scheduled on April 23 and 24.

Several stakeholders, including private schools management association, have welcomed the court's decision.

D Shashi Kumar, general secretary of the Associated Management of Primary and Secondary Schools in Karnataka, said he hoped that the officials of the department and the minister concerned will understand the seriousness of the issue at least now.

"The government must take a decision and award marks for third language subjects," he said.

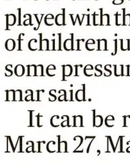
Welcoming the move, The Union to Protect the Interest of Indigenous Languages said, "This judgment is good for the development of all nine indigenous languages, including Kannada. We welcome the court's direction."

Former minister for school education & literacy Suresh Kumar (BJP) demanded that the government apologise to students for the confusion it created by announcing grade system a few days before the exams.

"The government must think before announcing any decision relating to children. Believing the decision on third lanauge subjects, many children did not take third language exams seriously. Now, the government has to answer on the fate of these students. I feel the government has played with the future of lakhs of children just by yielding to some pressures," Suresh Kumar said.

It can be recalled that on March 27, Madhu Bangarappa announced the decision to allot grades instead of marks for third language subjects from the current year itself. The announcements came a few days before the examinations for SSLC third language subjects.

MADHU BANGARAPPA
School Education Minister



"The High Court has directed to continue the marks system for this year. We will discuss the issue with the chief minister.

Court orders probe against Parameshwara, Tumkuru DC over 'Rs 500 bet'

BENGALURU, DHNS

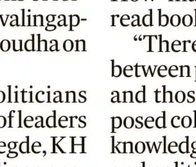
A court in Bengaluru on Tuesday has directed the Tumakuru police to register an FIR and launch a probe against Home Minister G Parameshwara after he had claimed to have lost Rs 500 bet during a local kabaddi match.

The XLII Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM), K N Shivakumar also sought probe against deputy commissioner, Tumakuru district.

The court noted that since the offences alleged against the Home minister and the deputy commissioner appear to be not coming within the purview of discharge of their official functions, a prior sanction from the concerned authority/state government is not necessary.

The court acted on a private complaint by one H R Nagabhushan.

"It is the allegation of the complainant that the accused No 1 being the sitting MLA from Koratagere constituency & Home minister for the state and accused No.2 being the deputy commissioner, Tumakuru district have involved in illegal betting in the public function, i.e., the kabaddi competition held in the Tumakuru city on 19/10/2025 by betting Rs 500/- as against the winning team i.e., the Dakshina Kannada District Team & also after the said competition they have given statement about the same to the media, whereby they have instigated the public at large to involve in such illegal betting activities. As such the accused have committed the offences punishable U/Sec.112(2) & 45 of BNS, 2023," the complainant had alleged.


IN THE HIGH COURT

After the perusal, the court ordered: "I hereby refer this complaint U/Sec. 175(3) of BNSS, 2023 to the SHO, Kodigehalli police station, Kodigehalli, Koratagere taluk, Tumakuru district for investigation. Office to send the complaint and connected papers to the said police station. Await FIR."

Following the tournament, Parameshwara had said: "I lost Rs 500. We both, the DC and I, had a bet and I lost Rs 500."

The clipping was telecast on local TV news channels.

College of politics planned to educate budding politicians

BENGALURU, DHNS

The government is planning to start a college of politics to educate budding politicians about the state's political history, significant legislative debates and achievements of past chief ministers, speakers and ministers.

Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti said this while speaking at the birth centenary celebrations of former minister B Basavalingappa, held at Vidhana Soudha on Tuesday.

"Most young politicians today are not aware of leaders like Ramakrishna Hegde, K H Patil, and B Basavalingappa. There is a need to educate them," he said.

"The newly elected legislators should be given training. How many people actually read books?" he asked.

"There is a vast difference between politicians of the past and those of today. The proposed college can help impart knowledge about great leaders and politicians," he remarked.

Referring to Basavalingappa's life and work, Horatti said his controversial "Boosa" (fodder) remark in the 1970s, when he was a minister in the Devaraj Urs-led government, had sparked social debate and encouraged people to question inequality.

"He was not just a politician but an intellectual who guided Dalit thought. Whatever portfolio he was given, he would study it thoroughly and speak in the House. He would give clear answers to questions related to his department," he remembered. Law Minister H K Patil urged the programme organisers to hold the next centenary celebration programme in Dharwad.

B Basavalingappa Birth Centenary Committee and Bengaluru University had jointly organised the programme.

BASAVARAJ HORATTI
Legislative Council Chairman

"There is a vast difference between politicians of the past and those of today. The proposed college can help impart knowledge about great leaders and politicians

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Advt.No.HR/02/684 Date: 22.04.2026

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Rain respite from scorching heat in N-K

The tin roof sheet of a house flew off and fell to ground due to strong winds at Haluvagalu in Harapanahalli taluk of Vijayanagar district on Monday night. DH PHOTO

Koppal records 42.4º Celsius, other places below 40º

KALABURAGI, DHNS

Temperatures remained normal, below 40º Celsius, in north Karnataka districts on Tuesday.

Koppal recorded the highest temperature of 42.4º Celsius, followed by Kalaburagi at 39.9º Celsius.

Temperatures also fell in Bidar (38.2º Celsius), Vijayapura and Gadag (38º Celsius), due to rainfall in the region.

Several parts of Kalyana Karnataka region received good rainfall for the second consecutive day, bringing significant relief to people from intense heatwaves and scorching temperatures.

Several villages in Chitaguppa taluk of Bidar district received heavy rainfall accompanied by hailstorms for more than two hours. Water entered some houses in Talamadagi village.

Tree fall trouble

A huge tree collapsed on the Gundagurthi-Mugata stretch, disrupting vehicular movement for a few hours on the Kalaburagi-Sedam state highway.

The rain, accompanied by lightning and thunderstorm, cooled the air in Kalaburagi and other taluks. There were showers for more than two hours in Kalagi taluk.

Five sheep died following the collapse of a tree in Korawara village. Several trees collapsed on the Korawara-Wachha road. Because of this, motorists were stranded for some time. Yadgir and surrounding villages received heavy rain.

Lingasugur, Maski, Kavital and Hatti gold mines in Raichur district witnessed moderate rainfall. Rain accompanied by thunderstorm and lightning occurred in various parts of Vijayapura district including Indi, Talikote, Muddebihal and Tikota. Several trees collapsed due to heavy rainfall at Sultanpur in Sandur taluk of Ballari district.

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6-year RI for convict in S'mogga ISIS conspiracy case

BENGALURU, DHNS: A special National Investigation Agency (NIA) court has convicted and sentenced an accused in the 2022 Shivamogga ISIS terror conspiracy case. The convict Arafath Ali has been sentenced to six years' rigorous imprisonment. In November 2025, the court sentenced two other accused in this case and sentenced them to six years' rigorous imprisonment.

According to NIA charge sheet, Arafath was radicalised and recruited by Mussavir Hussain Shazib (accused-11) and Abdul Matheen Taha (accused-12) while they were in Thirthahalli near Shivamogga and in Bengaluru. In December 2019, Arafath along with Mohammed Shariq (accused-1) wrote graffiti in Thirthahalli during the CAA and NRC protests.

In January 2020, as per the instructions of an online handler, Arafath fled to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) anticipating his arrest.

The NIA charge sheet stated that two other accused - Mohamed Shariq (accused-1) and Maaz Muneer Ahmed (accused-2) wrote graffiti at two places in Mangaluru city supporting terror organisations Islamic State (IS), Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Taliban. Arafath was arrested on his arrival at Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi in September 2023.

The special court convicted Arafath for offences under IPC and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. Sachin C, special public prosecutor, conducted the case for NIA.

Take action on leaders after 'due procedure', says Zameer

Not joining JD(S), Cong has given me everything: Minister

BENGALURU, DHNS

A day after KPCC's Muslim office-bearers asked the party high command to initiate 'sweeping action' against all those responsible for allegedly trying to sabotage the party's effort in the April 9 Davangere South bypoll, Housing Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan said disciplinary action against party members must follow "due procedure", even as he dismissed claims that the Congress had sidelined Muslim leaders.

Recently, the state Congress expelled MLC Abdul Jabbar and forced MLC Naseer Ahmed to resign as CM's political secretary, over 'anti-party' activities.

Party leaders Saleem Ahmed and Rizwan Ahmed had alleged 'sabotage' by those miffed over the party giving ticket to Samarth Mallikarjun, grandson of sitting Congress MLA, Shamanur Shivashankarappa, while denying ticket to a Muslim candidate, despite the community's significant numbers in Davangere South constituency.

"Be it Jabbar or Naseer Ahmed, there is a procedure to be followed. Naseer is a senior member. Like Minister Satish Jarkiholi said, the party should have issued notice and waited for their reply, before taking action," said Zameer.

When asked about the letter written by Muslim religious leaders to the Congress high command, expressing disappointment over the "treatment" meted out to Muslim leaders by the party in Karnataka, Zameer said, "If religious leaders have expressed their opinion, what can I say?".

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had said the Muslim leaders were present when the high command decided on the ticket and had agreed to it.

Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC chief D K Shivakumar had said, "Nobody has a grudge. Party discipline applies equally to every member".

Zameer dismissed speculations about rejoining JD(S), calling them "rumours".

He said, "Why should I go back to JD(S)? The Congress has given me everything. In 2018, the party made me a minister in the coalition government headed by Kumaraswamy and gave me five portfolios, when I least expected it as there were other senior leaders like Roshan Baig, Tanveer Sait and N A Haris. While I was in JD(S), I was given only two portfolios—Haj and Wakf. In 2023, the Congress again made me a minister and gave me four portfolios. How can I forget all this? What more do I need?"

The minister also denied meeting Kumaraswamy.

Rajanna floats 'black magic' theory for Siddaramaiah's 'helplessness'

K N Rajanna.

BENGALURU, DHNS: Senior Congress lawmaker K N Rajanna on Tuesday claimed 'black magic' may have left Chief Minister Siddaramaiah politically helpless.

Rajanna said this while building on his earlier statement lamenting Siddaramaiah's 'helplessness' and not standing up for his party loyalists who have faced action.

"Sometimes I wonder if someone has done black magic on [Siddaramaiah]. I'm investigating it," Rajanna said.

When pointed out that Siddaramaiah was an atheist, Rajanna said: "When trouble comes, it won't spare an atheist or a believer. I don't believe in black magic, but it's possible."

He also noted that 'black magic' was rampant in Kerala. The Madhugiri MLA, who was sacked from the Cabinet last year apparently for speaking out of turn, said he noticed 'black magic' attempts on him, too.

"Every time I contested an election, I found yellow water, lemons with nails, tied to a thread near my old house in Kyathasandra," Rajanna said.

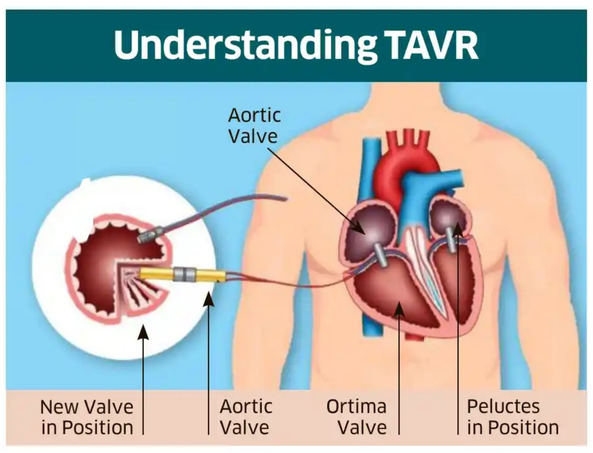
"I didn't believe in all that. And, I didn't lose an election because of this."

PULL OF THE CHARIOT

Thousands of devotees gather to watch the Marulasiddeshwara car festival organised by the Ujjayini Peetha in Kottur taluk of Vijayanagar district on Tuesday. DH PHOTO

New procedures for complicated cardiac cases

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS



The new procedures in cardiac care, called Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR) and Transcatheter Mitral Valve Replacement (TMVR), have recently gained traction over the traditional open heart surgery, but these come with their own challenges, mainly the cost.

Speaking to *DH*, Dr Shyam Sunder K R, senior consultant (Interventional Cardiology), said, "There are specific indications for these procedures. We will closely scrutinise the age of the patients, whether they have pre-conditions that put them at any kind of surgical risk, and whether their clinical findings make it optimal to choose TAVR or TMVR as compared to open-heart surgery."

"As far as technology is concerned, better valves are being introduced, and there are a lot of improvements, but guidelines are specific as to when such procedures can be performed," he said.

To perform such invasive procedures, doctors require a special set of skills and training.

Special and advanced training

Explaining this, Dr Sanjay Bhat said, "Doctors require special and advanced training to perform procedures like TAVR and TMVR because these are highly specialised, minimally invasive techniques that involve guiding catheters through blood vessels to the heart, which is very different from open heart surgery."

"The doctors must learn specific imaging skills, device handling, and teamwork in a catheterization lab setting, and they usually undergo dedicated fellowships, hands-on practice, and proctor-guided procedures before performing them independently, ensuring patient safety and successful outcomes, as these procedures demand precision, experience, and coordination among a team of cardiologists, surgeons, and imaging specialists," he further explained.

The doctors flag that the price is almost four times more expensive than the traditional open heart surgery.

While a typical heart surgery costs somewhere between Rs 1.5 lakh and Rs 3.5 lakh, depending on the case, TAVR and TMVR costs anywhere between Rs 8 lakh and Rs 13 lakh.

Dr Ravindranath Reddy D R, HOD and senior consultant (Interventional Cardiology), said, "Affordability and accessibility remain important considerations. TAVR and TMVR procedures are generally more expensive compared with conventional surgery because of the device cost."

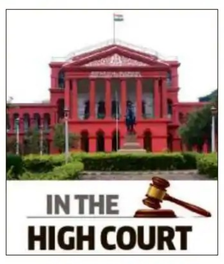
Dr Sanjay Mehrotra, senior consultant cardiologist, said, "One of the biggest benefits for patients is faster recovery. People who undergo TAVR are often able to get back on their feet within 24 to 72 hours, compared to spending weeks in the hospital after open-heart surgery. Global data also shows that these treatments are reliable in the long run."

HC declines review petition on grading...

SSLC exam, from Page 1

The minister's statement, relied upon by a PIL petitioner, was not entertained by a division bench of the High Court and imposed Rs 1 lakh cost upon the petitioners, the AG said.

The review petition had contended that the petitioners had not disclosed the April 10, 2026, notification by which the draft rules - Karnataka Secondary Examination Board First (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2026 – have been published.



The draft rules would amend the Karnataka Secondary Examination Board First Regulations, introducing the grading system for the marks obtained in the third language/National Scheme Qualification Framework (NSQF), effective from the 2025-26 SSLC exam.

The AG submitted that a grading system is being introduced as several students, mostly from rural areas, were failing in the third language. At this, Justice Indiresh orally asked as to whether the state government intends to introduce a grading system to pass all the students.

On the other hand, the counsel for the petitioners submitted that doing away with the marks system would hamper the opportunity for the students to secure more marks in the third language and would impact their overall ranks in the SSLC examination.

Dismissing the review petition filed by the state, Justice Indiresh noted that the notification pertaining to the draft rules was issued on April 10, while the SSLC examinations were over by April 2.

The court further pointed out that at the time of disposal of the writ petition filed by the students, there was no rule in force promulgated by the competent authority.

The court, however, acceded to the submission made by the AG to change a portion in the April 15 judgment wherein it had held that 'any subsequent modification is contrary to Article 14 of the Constitution of India'.

Justice Indiresh orally observed that a section of students does take up Kannada as their third language, and if the grading system is introduced, such students may not take up the subject seriously.

"If you ask those students to list the Jnanpith awardees of Kannada, they may include Ranna and Pampa (10th-century poets) in the list," the judge orally said.

Now, state-level exams for I PU...

PU, from Page 1

Other measures planned to improve results include implementing lesson-based assessment to help continuously evaluate and strengthen students' learning and integrated classes for science students to help them prepare for competitive exams.

Under the Karnataka Advanced Learning and Achievement Mission, integrated classes will be organised along with providing hostel facilities and provide quality science education to students from rural and underprivileged areas.

Artificial Intelligence courses will be introduced to prepare students as part of skill education.

Blueprints, model question papers and MCQ question banks will be made available online for students to give them a clear idea of the exam pattern and to help them face competitive exams like KCET and NEET.

Will bomb Iran if no deal by today, warns Trump

Trump, from Page 1

Dar underscored Pakistan's consistent emphasis on dialogue and diplomacy as the only viable means to address challenges and achieve lasting regional peace and stability, the foreign office said in a statement.

"He stressed the need for engagement between the United States and Iran, urged both sides to consider extending the ceasefire, and to give dialogue and diplomacy a chance," it said.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi also met the envoys of the US and Iran on Tuesday and discussed matters related to the peace talks.

Despite ambiguity, Trump expressed confidence that peace talks with Iran would go ahead.

Citing three US sources, American news outlet Axios earlier reported that Vice President J D Vance is expected to depart for Islamabad by Tuesday morning for talks with Iran over a potential deal to end the war. Special envoy Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner are likely to join Vance.

13 killed in explosion at fireworks unit...

Fireworks, from Page 1

The firework unit was functioning in a large area in the middle of paddy fields. Houses located more than 500m from the unit also suffered damage. Some residents suffered minor injuries in the incident.

District collector Shikha Surendran said DNA tests would be conducted to identify the bodies.

The explosion took place around 3.30 pm. But it took several hours to completely put out the fire owing to frequent explosions. Even though the exact reason for the explosion is unclear, severe heat is suspected to be a reason. The revenue divisional officer is conducting a preliminary inquiry.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled the loss of lives in the explosion and announced ex gratia of Rs 2 lakh each to the kin of the deceased and Rs 50,000 each to the injured.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan directed that all necessary medical assistance be provided and asked officials to ensure coordinated rescue and relief operations. As directed by the chief minister, ministers and senior officials rushed to the spot to coordinate the rescue and relief measures.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Dry weather prevailed over Coastal Karnataka, South Interior Karnataka and North Interior Karnataka

Forecast April 22: Dry weather likely to prevail over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	36.4	21.8	00
Bidar	39.4	24.6	00
Vijayapura	39	23.5	00
Dharwad	35.2	20.2	00
Haveri	35	21.8	00
Kalaburagi	39	25.8	00
Raichur	40	27	00
COASTAL			
Honnavar	34.5	NA	00
Karwar	NA	25.6	00
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	34.5	25	00

INTERIOR SOUTH	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	32.9	20.6	0.5
Bengaluru	35.8	24.2	00
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	NA	NA	NA
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	38	22.7	00
Davangere	37.8	22	00
Hassan	NA	NA	00
Mysuru	36.4	21	00
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	37	18.8	00
OTHER STATIONS			
New Delhi	39.5	20.5	00
Kolkata	36.4	25.9	00
Mumbai	34.9	25.2	00
Chennai	37.6	27.5	00
Pune	39.7	21.3	00
Hyderabad	29.8	28.4	00
Th'puram	35.5	27.1	00

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No. DGM-2/BSWML/Tend/01/26-27 Date: 21.04.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)

(Through GOK KPP Only)

The Deputy General Manager-2, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites tender from eligible tenderers for the Project management consultancy services for the work mentioned in the table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for services through KPP portal of the Government of Karnataka (viz. https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in). The tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified is as per standard bid document. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Project Cost (Rs. In Lakhs)	Duration (Including Monsoon)	EMD Amount in Rs.
1	Appointment of PMC for the work of MSW Resource Recovery Support and Surrounding Area Infrastructure Works in Mahadevapura Constituency, including facilitation for organic manure production and essential basic infrastructure in and around MSW/legacy waste influence zones.	7205.14	11 Months	1,44,000/-

Calendar of Events:
1. Pre bid Meeting: 02.05.2026 at 15.00 Hrs at the office of CE & CGM (Tech), BSWML, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru.
2. Last date for submission of the bids: 11.05.2026 upto 16.00 Hrs.
3. Date of opening of Technical bid on: 12.05.2026 at 16.30 Hrs.
4. Date of opening of Financial bids to be notified to technically qualified bidders.

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DIPR/CP/285/AKAR/2026-27

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[मुख्यालय]/[Headquarters]

पेंशन अदालत PENSION ADALAT

इसरो मुख्यालय और यू.आर.एस.सी. के पेंशनभोगियों के लिए संबंधित केंद्रों द्वारा दिनांक **07.07.2026 (मंगलवार) को 11:00 बजे से 16:00** बजे तक पेंशन अदालत आयोजित की जाएगी। इस संबंध में, अं.वि./इसरो मुख्यालय के पेंशनभोगी/परिवार पेंशनभोगी,अदालत में विचार के लिए अपनी शिकायत, यदि कोई, वरिष्ठ प्रशासनिक अधिकारी, स्थापना, इसरो मुख्यालय, अंतरिक्ष भवन, न्यू बी.ई.एल. रोड, बेंगलूरु - 560 094 को लिखित रूप में या ईमेल **hqestt@isro.gov.in** के माध्यम से भेज सकते हैं या 080-22172265 पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं।

A Pension Adalat will be held for the pensioners of ISRO HQ & URSC by the respective centres **from 1100 hrs to 1600 hrs on 07.07.2026 (Tuesday)**. In this connection, Pensioners/Family Pensioners of DOS/ISRO HQ, may forward their grievance, if any, in writing, for consideration in the Adalat, to Sr. Admin Officer, Establishment, ISRO HQ, Antariksh Bhavan, New BEL Road, Bengaluru – 560 094, or through email **hqestt@isro.gov.in** or may contact 080-22172265.

यू.आर.एस.सी. के पेंशनभोगी/परिवार पेंशनभोगी अपनी शिकायत, यदि कोई, वरिष्ठ प्रशासनिक अधिकारी (स्थापना), यू.आर.एस.सी., पोस्ट बाक्स सं. 1795, ओल्ड एयरपोर्ट रोड, विमानपुरा पोस्ट, बेंगलूरु - 560 017 को लिखित रूप में या ईमेल **psbmani@ursc.gov.in** के माध्यम से भेज सकते हैं या 080-61084105 /4123 (यू.आर.एस.सी.) पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं। संपूर्ण विवरण और संपर्क संख्या के साथ शिकायतें दिनांक **01.06.2026** को या उससे पहले संबंधित केंद्रों को भेजी जा सकती हैं। कृपया नोट करें कि, कानूनी/ नीतिगत मामलों से संबंधित शिकायत अदालत में नहीं ली जा सकती है। अदालत में भागीदारी पूरी तरह से स्वैच्छिक है और इसके लिए खर्च/व्यवस्था पेंशनभोगी द्वारा की जाएगी।

The pensioners/ family pensioners of URSC may forward their grievance, if any in writing to Sr.Admin Officer (Estt.), URSC, P.B No.1795, Old Airport Road, Vimanapura Post, Bengaluru- 560 017, or through email: **psbmani@ursc.gov.in** or contact 080-61084105 / 4123(URSC). The grievances with complete details and contact no. may be forwarded to respective centres on or before **01.06.2026**. Please note that, the grievance involving legal/policy matters, cannot be taken up in Adalat. Participation in the Adalat is purely voluntary and at own cost / arrangement by the pensioner.

बेंगलूरु/Bengaluru

वरिष्ठ प्रशासनिक अधिकारी (स्था.), इसरो मु.
Senior Administrative Officer (Estt), ISRO HQ

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Zilla Panchayath, Ballari.
Office of Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Division, Ballari.

No.: EE/RDWS&SD/B/JE/3rd Party/Tender.Nofi/2026-27/37
Dated:16.04.2026

E-tender Notification (KTTP Act 2000)

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Division, Ballari hereby calls the tender for execution of **"Empanelment of Third-Party Inspection Agency under Jal Jeevan Mission and other works by Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department in Ballari division of Ballari District in Karnataka. Indent No: RWSSD/2025-26/SE0832)"** through e-procurement. The information regarding tenders will be made available in **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/)** website & Tender document download date **16.04.2026** The last date to receive the tender from eligible bidders is at 04.00 pm on **27.04.2026** Date of opening of Technical Bid is at 05.00 pm on **28.04.2026** and Pre-bid meeting is held at Office of the Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Division, Ballari, Above SBI Bank, Sudha Cross, Cantonment at 11.30 am on **23.04.2026** For any tender related quarries or more information bidders can contact above said office or e-procurement help desk up to **23.05.2025** at 4.00 pm.

Sd/-Executive Engineer, RDW&S Division. Ballari
DIPR/Ballari/2026-27/KSMCA/RO No/67

No one wants BJP to form govt, TMC will return to power again. We will also throw out the BJP from Delhi in 2026 itself
Political Theatre
I will always be a danger to those who want to deceive Tamil Nadu and want to hinder its growth

TVK's entry puts Dravidian bipolarity to test

While several seats are set for triangular contest, it remains to be seen what is at stake for Stalin & EPS

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Finally, it's curtains on probably the most intensely fought elections in the state's recent history. A new force, Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK), has challenged the deeply entrenched Dravidian parties for control of Fort St George, the seat of power of the Tamil Nadu government.

The primary question before the 5.73 crore electorate on Thursday is this: should they continue to allow the DMK or AIADMK, which have ruled the state alternatively since 1967, to hold sway, or vote for TVK chief C Joseph Vijay?

Tamil nationalist S Seeman's Naam Tamizhar Katchi (NTK) is also in the fray, even as expelled AIADMK leader V K Sasikala and PMK founder S Ramadoss have fielded candidates across the state.

Chief Minister M K Stalin, Leader of Opposition Edappadi K Palaniswami and Seeman have criss-crossed the state, visiting every district during the month-long campaign. Vijay, on the other hand, chose to make his public appearances minimal even during the peak election season.

Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin campaigns on Tuesday. PTI

The contest is triangular in several parts of the state, and in this, what's at stake for Stalin and Palaniswami?

Stalin sees this election as the best opportunity for him to script history by leading his party to a successive term for the first time since 1971.

Tamil Nadu has never seen a CM walking casually into a roadside tea stall or a vegetable market and joining morning walkers by breaking protocols. He is banking on his "inclusive" image and his government's welfare measures to hold on to power.

For Palaniswami, a victory in the elections is needed to validate his leadership as AIADMK has not won an election since J Jayalalithaa's death in 2016.

For long, AIADMK has been the sole harvester of anti-DMK and anti-incumbency votes.

That could change this time. Vijay is expected to hurt AIADMK by taking a chunk of its votes. DMK could suffer from him making inroads into its minority and Dalit vote bank.

Projecting himself as the "primary force and change agent", Vijay is the latest from Kollywood to test the waters in politics. He believes people under the age of 40 will support him.

TAMIL NADU
Assembly Poll

Field visits by this *DH* correspondent revealed that Vijay has indeed become a discussion point in families with youngsters.

"It remains to be seen whether DMK's strong alliance is still cohesive compared to the NDA led by AIADMK... While it is a trilateral fight, it remains to be seen who would get hurt more by the crowds that Vijay conjured during his campaign," R Kannan, biographer of Dravidian legends C N Annadurai and M G Ramachandran, told *DH*.

Fisherfolk lean towards Vijay

FROM THE GROUND

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
THOOTHUKUDI, DHNS

In the scorching afternoon heat at the fishing harbour in Tharuvaikulam here, 61-year-old Kumar was mending a fishing net while youngsters prepared to offload the day's catch from catamarans. The conversation slowly turned to the April 23 Assembly elections, and 32-year-old Udhaya was candid. "I will vote for Vijay," he told *DH*, hurriedly adding that he was not a fan.

"I want to vote for him as he is new to politics. We should give newcomers a chance," said Udhaya. "I voted for Seeman in the past for his oratory skills. I believe Vijay is a better option this time."

Kumar did not open up initially, merely saying he voted for the AIADMK and the DMK in the past. As 26-year-old Willbin joined the conversation and expressed his support for Vijay's TVK, Kumar said he might vote for change this time. "Taatha (Grandfather), are you also going to vote for Vijay?" Willbin asked, and pat came the reply, "Yes, I am planning to."

TVK chief Vijay in Chennai on Tuesday. PTI

Yards away, 70-year-old S Irudayasamy, surrounded by young fishermen, was clear. "I will vote for the one who is going around with a whistle. Let there be change. Change is the only constant in life," he told *DH*.

The mood in Tharuvaikulam is just an example of how the fisherfolk, mostly Christians, are enthused with Vijay's political entry and might shift loyalties from the AIADMK and lately the Naam Tamilar Katchi (NTK) to the TVK.

Vijay being a Christian, a lack of adequate political representation for the community, and the attraction towards novelty are some of the factors pushing those in the fishing hamlet towards Vijay. But Irudayasamy said fishers are voting for Vijay not because of his religion, but because he "represents" change.

While Tharuvaikulam is dominated by fishers from the Nadar community, the majority in Therespuram in Thoothukudi city are from the Paravar (fishing) community, who also practice Christianity. The pattern is clear in fishing hamlets—they voted for the AIADMK for a long time, a section shifted to Seeman, and now a significant chunk is moving towards Vijay.

At Therespuram, a group of women were discussing mobilising funds for a local festival, and this *DH* correspondent infused political discussion only to know that the women were already torn between old loyalties and the yearning for a change.

West Bengal: Money & Muscle Power*

2,926 Candidates	2,920 Analysed
385 Women	
Candidates with serious criminal cases: 589 (431 in 2021)	
BJP 188, TMC 90, CPM 78, Cong 63	
Crime against women 192	Murder: 35, Attempt to Murder: 185

Education

Between Class 5 and 12	1,354
Graduate or above	1,419
Diploma holders	49
Just literate	68
Illiterate	30

Red alert constituencies (with 3 or more candidates with cases): **129** (78 in 2021)

Crorepatis: 629 (394 in 2021)
TMC 209, BJP 143, Cong 86, CPM 57

Average of assets per candidate **Rs 1.27 crore** (Rs 91.69 lakh in 2021)

Richest
JAKIR HOSSAIN
Jangipur, TMC
Rs 133.52 cr

Poorest
RUBIYA BEGAM
Durgapur Purba, AJUP
Rs 500

Zero assets declared: 4

Average assets

2021 Elections	Rs 2.90 cr
2026 Elections	Rs 4.74 cr

Average asset growth in 5 years: Rs 1.83 cr (63%)

*Figures for Ph 1 & 2 Source: Association for Democratic Reforms

Poll vault

Dry days & bike block

People in poll-bound Bengal are going from mildly irked to moderately irate as restrictions rain down on them. First came the closure of all excise shops on April 20. This was well before the customary 48-hour alcohol ban ahead of polling, as per the Model Code of Conduct. Notices across liquor shops, bars, and pubs – issued by respective district magistrates – made it clear that alcohol would be available only from April 24 to 6 pm the next day. The next window would be from April 30 to May 3, with the counting day – May 4 – also being a dry day. Some moaned: "They didn't even give us time to pick up some 'stock'." Others rued the prospect of long lines on April 24-25. The next blow came on Tuesday, when a ban on bikes was announced. The reasoning? Controlling bike rallies to maintain the law-and-order situation. As yours truly made his way home on a bike taxi, the "captain" griped about the lack of clarity on whether his livelihood would be affected. From the Centre to the state, is any government listening to the problems of the people, by the people, for the people?

ARKADEV GHOSHAL, KOLKATA

Meet the leader

S Seeman
NTK
Karaikudi

Drawn to the Dravidian movement and its ideologue EVR Periyar in his formative years, including during his stint as a filmmaker, Seeman has since emerged as one of the fiercest critics of the very ideology that has shaped Tamil Nadu politics since the 1960s.

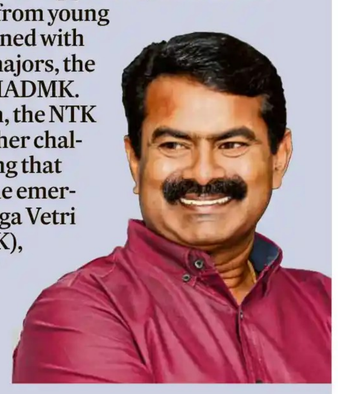
A proponent of Tamil nationalism and a strong advocate of regional autonomy, Seeman is among the state's most compelling orators, often holding audiences rapt for hours.

He began his political journey in 2011, months after being released from jail following his arrest under the National Security Act. During the Assembly elections that year, he campaigned actively against the DMK-Congress alliance, blaming them for the deaths of civilians in the Sri Lankan civil war.

His party made its electoral debut in 2016, securing just over one per cent of the vote. Since then, the NTK's vote share has steadily risen—3.90% in 2019, 6.58% in 2021, and 8.10% in 2024—signalling gradual growth in the state.

However, the party is yet to win a seat, with Seeman himself losing from Cuddalore and Tiruvottiyur in 2016 and 2021. This time, he is contesting from Karaikudi in his native Sivaganga district.

Beyond ideological supporters, Seeman has drawn backing from young voters disillusioned with the Dravidian majors, the DMK and the AIADMK. But this election, the NTK may face a tougher challenge in retaining that support, with the emergence of Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK), floated by actor Vijay, positioning itself as an alternative force.



Trivia

In the 1972 round of Assembly elections, allegations of rigging first surfaced in West Bengal. This time, the charges took the form of coercion, threats and violence by organised gangs of goons, allegedly deployed by the ruling party in a pre-planned manner at polling stations. Acting in collusion with polling personnel, they were accused of scaring away genuine voters and then marking ballot papers themselves with the staff's help, an EC report noted. No party in West Bengal, however, indulged in claims such as chemical treatment of ballot papers or the use of invisible ink. Nor did they, either then or during the 1972 Assembly elections, impute any mala fide intent to the EC.

Kabir's Babri gambit falters after SIR strike on Bengal

Voters are cautious about fragmenting Trinamool votes

FROM THE GROUND

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
BELDANGA (MURSHIDABAD), DHNS

Humayun Kabir

Stacks of bricks, heaps of sand and stone chips, and a few makeshift tea-and-snacks shops catering to construction workers and curious visitors make the plot by NH-12 stand out.

The land in Beldanga, Murshidabad, is where Humayun Kabir has promised to build a replica of the Babri Masjid.

Humayun laid the foundation stone just two days after he was suspended from the Trinamool Congress on December 4 last year.

This paved a new course in the 63-year-old politician's career, catapulting him from a state-level leader to a national figure.

Many speculated that this move could impact the elections in West Bengal, particularly swinging the Muslim vote bank against TMC.

Muslims make up nearly 27% of the population and are seen as a key voting bloc in over 110 of the state's 294 constituencies.

However, the tide seems to have turned against Humayun and his Aam Janata Unnayan Party (AJUP) too soon, with many of its candidates deserting the camp.

But Humayun believes otherwise. "The crowd on both sides of the road reflects the support we are receiving from people... not only Muslims, but all the downtrodden, exploited by TMC and BJP, are supporting us."

Humayun defected from the Congress to TMC in 2013, quit in 2016, joined BJP in 2018, and returned to TMC in 2021, only to be expelled for his Babri Masjid stance.

TMC accused him of acting at BJP's behest to split Muslim votes. BJP alleged that his expulsion was staged.

Rekibuddin and Jabbar, who run small businesses at Khanakul in Hooghly, was visiting the mosque site. Both think it was a good initiative, but that is not enough to gain votes. "After many genuine voters were deleted during the SIR, everyone knows this is not the time to fragment votes and help the BJP," says Jabbar.

Rekibuddin nods, "Didi (Mamata) may not have delivered everything we expected, but she is fighting to restore voting rights. People must rally behind her."

WEST BENGAL
Assembly Poll

The roll revision and BJP's promise of a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in West Bengal appear to have reversed the drift of minority votes from TMC.

Humayun also suffered a jolt after TMC released a video allegedly exposing a deal between him and BJP. This cost him the support of Asaduddin Owaisi-led AIMIM.

Now, Humayun and AJUP are getting tepid response. Recently, he had to cancel a rally in Birbhum's Hansan constituency because a handful of people turned up.

DESERTED CAMP

- Humayun's AJUP had announced a list of 182 candidates on March 18
- No official word on how many still in the fray
- Tahir Khan, AJUP's candidate at Kulti in Asansol, quit the party to join TMC
- Several other candidates have also quit the outfit

West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee during an election campaign in Kolkata on Tuesday. PTI

Home Minister Amit Shah during a public meeting in Paschim Medinipur district. PTI

TMC-BJP war of words peaks ahead of Phase 1 Bengal polls

KOLKATA, DHNS

The campaigning for the first phase of the Assembly elections in West Bengal ended with the war of words between the Trinamool Congress and BJP reaching a crescendo on Tuesday.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah faced TMC's ire over his "insult" to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in particular and the women of the state in general.

"Mamata Didi, your time is now up," Shah said at a rally in Kulti, Asansol.

In another rally in Salboni, Paschim Medinipur, Shah hit out at Mamata, saying, "Eh Didi, listen carefully, Bengal is in India." He was alluding to the alleged infiltrators in West Bengal, an issue that BJP has been harping on to corner TMC.

Objecting to the way the BJP heavyweight referred to the state's chief minister, TMC general secretary Abhishek Banerjee posted on X, "This is the *poriborton* (change) the BJP seeks to import into Bengal from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. It is not a change; it is a regression in values. An insult to Bengal. An insult to every woman in this state and across the country."

Abhishek, who is Mamata's heir apparent, also recalled Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Didi O Didi" jibe during the 2021 Assembly elections campaign.

Shah also took a dig at Abhishek on Tuesday, saying, "*Bhaipo* (nephew) will not be the future chief minister of West Bengal. He has already purchased his ticket to leave the state after May 4 (the day the votes will be counted)".

In Haldia in Purba Medinipur, Mamata was predicting BJP's fate and said that TMC would form the government in the state, as well as throw the saffron party out of power in Delhi.

On Thursday, 152 Assembly constituencies will go to polls in Phase 1. The constituencies are spread over 16 of the 23 districts in the state, which has a 294-member Legislative Assembly. Altogether, 1,478 candidates are in the fray. Voting in the remaining 142 constituencies will be on April 29.

About 3.60 crore voters are eligible to vote in Phase 1, according to the Election Commission.

The number may go up with the publishing of the supplementary electoral rolls, with the names of the people who were disenfranchised during the SIR exercise, but whom the appellate tribunals returned their voting rights till midnight on Tuesday.

TRUST TEST

Economic decline shapes poll battle in Asansol

FROM THE GROUND

KALYAN RAY
ASANSOL (WEST BENGAL), DHNS

More than 200 km away from Kolkata, the politics of Bengali-identity is not at play in the state's second largest city.

With 32% of Asansol's population being Hindi-speaking—mostly migrants from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh—the ruling Trinamool Congress does not have leverage on the *bohiragoto* (outsider) plank.

Instead, it relies on the success of direct benefit schemes like the flagship Lakshmir Bhandar. But low-level corruption has become a restraining factor.

"We are contesting on the strength of our development work after Asansol was made the district headquarters. We have delivered on 106 schemes announced by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. People have trust in Didi, but not in Modi," Moloy Ghatak, a minister in the state Cabinet and the veteran TMC candidate in Asansol Uttar, told *DH*.

Surrounded by major coalfields, including the country's oldest Raniganj coal mine, Asansol has evolved as a key industrial town and railway hub over the years.

But in the last two decades, the Asansol-Durgapur industrial belt—once dubbed the 'Ruhr of Bengal'—witnessed closure of several big PSUs and iconic private factories such as Burn Standard, Hindustan Cables, Sen-Raleigh Bicycle factory, Hindustan Pikington Glass factory and MAMC.

In his Asansol rally earlier this month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced plans to develop Asansol and Durgapur as mega cities, while referring to the closure of Sen Raleigh Cycle Factory and Hindustan Pilkington Glass Factory, blaming both the Left Front and the TMC regime for the region's decline.

Moloy Ghatak, a senior minister in the Mamata Banerjee government and TMC candidate in Asansol Uttar constituency, during the last leg of campaign. Asansol will vote on Thursday. DH PHOTO

These shutdowns, driven by liquidation orders and chronic losses, have fuelled significant local unemployment and migration and are major issues in the 2026 Assembly polls. It has also led to a spurt in hazardous work like illegal coal pits.

The consequences are visible in Asansol Dakshin where land subsidence due to underground coal mining has left massive voids, making it a critical safety and electoral issue.

Tapas Banerjee, the TMC candidate in Asansol Dakshin, blames Eastern Coalfields Limited, a central PSU, for the severe land subsidence. His rival, BJP's Agnimitra Paul who won the seat in 2021, attacks TMC over the "coal mafia" nexus.

Modi had alleged that the industrial belt was under the "stranglehold" of a syndicate raj.

Asked about illegal coal mining, Ghatak said it was CISF's responsibility to protect the underground resource.

On industrial development, the minister said 193 acres of land parcel of the erstwhile Dhakeswari cotton mill has been taken over by the West Bengal government for setting up an industrial park. The project's DPR, however, is yet to be made.

"Despite of not having a good organisation base, BJP is putting up a good fight to TMC because of the low-level corruption. The saffron party will get the votes of Hindi-speaking population that views TMC as a party that favours the Muslims," said a college teacher.

Also, BJP's promise of hiking the Lakshmir Bhandar to Rs 3,000 per month has struck a chord with the poor.

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

Casualties of systemic neglect

The explosion at a fireworks factory in Tamil Nadu's Virudhunagar district, which killed 25 people – most of them women – occurred at a time when safety practices in the industry were projected as improving. Last month, at least 28 workers were killed in an accident at a firecracker manufacturing unit in Kakinada district in Andhra Pradesh. Though these explosions are termed accidents, a pattern exists: the setting is already in place; all it takes is one spark, a costly lapse. The frequency of these incidents is alarming, exposing a systemic failure to prevent operational violations and ensure deterrence.

Many of these fireworks units have been operating outside of the regulatory framework. Often functioning in sheds and makeshift structures, they are not always registered. However, the non-adherence to the prescribed guidelines is almost standard across the legal and illegal operations. The Virudhunagar unit was operating on a holiday without the required permission. The units are typically packed with workers. Many of them do not have the provisions of medical aid or the resources to shift injured workers to hospitals in the event of an accident. Large sections of the workers are unskilled and are engaged as temporary employees – a floating workforce that switches between odd jobs. Women constitute a major part of this workforce, and child labour is not uncommon. The workers are unorganised and lack the power to negotiate their salaries and work-related requirements with their employers. In backward areas with limited industry and employment opportunities, the workers are left with minimal choice. While these social realities contribute to the situation, what is striking is the administrative apathy: the failure to de-risk operations despite recurring accidents and loss of life.

Recurring fireworks accidents expose a system where deadly lapses escape consequence

The Virudhunagar unit where the explosion occurred showed all the markings of what is wrong with the fireworks industry. State and district administrations, mandated to enforce the rules, have been complicit in the violations in the units. They have failed across the country's fireworks clusters to ensure the required supervision. Courts have in the past blamed officials for the mishaps and pointed out that the guilty often escape because of inept investigation and prosecution. Governments announce compensation for the deaths of the workers but most families do not recover from the loss. Bringing all industrial operations under a stringent licensing system is the first, non-negotiable step towards reform. While the government steps up regulatory action, the industry must also be encouraged, and incentivised, to mechanise and reduce the number of workers.

Trekking SOPs: A timely reset

The Karnataka government's decision to introduce a comprehensive set of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for trekking marks an important course correction. In a state where adventure tourism has grown faster than regulation, the new framework marks a decisive shift from a culture of casual exploration to one of structured, accountable access. The push for reform follows disturbing recent incidents. The death of a 14-year-old tourist in Chikkamagaluru and the separate case of a woman who went missing on Tadiandamol before being rescued exposed serious gaps in safety protocols and coordination. These were symptoms of a system struggling to cope with an explosion in footfall. The SOPs are anchored in a simple rule: "No guide, no trek." Every group must now be accompanied by a certified nature guide, with a ratio of one guide for every ten trekkers. A daily ceiling of 150 trekkers per trail, mandatory online booking through the Aranya Vihaara portal, GPS-based tracking, and regular communication between guides and base camps collectively aim to professionalise trekking. The rules also enforce environmental discipline through a strict "leave no trace" policy, banning plastics, campfires, and unsanctioned overnight stays.

Karnataka's move prioritises safety, while balancing footfall with environmental discipline

Such measures have become unavoidable as Karnataka consolidates its position as a leading trekking destination. Trails across the Western Ghats – including Kudremukh, Kumara Parvatha, and Mullayanagiri – now attract heavy weekend traffic. Routes that were once relatively undisturbed have turned into crowded corridors. The pressure is evident. At Kumara Parvatha, visitor numbers have at times run into the thousands, far exceeding ecological limits. The government's decision to impose caps and restrict certain stretches may have disappointed some enthusiasts, but it reflects a necessary alignment with environmental realities. There is, however, a debate over whether opening new trekking routes could ease the pressure on existing hotspots. Proponents argue that expanding access would distribute footfall more evenly and stimulate local economies in less-visited regions. Conservationists caution that this could extend ecological stress into previously undisturbed areas while complicating enforcement.

A balanced approach is therefore essential. Instead of indiscriminately adding trails, the state can formalise and regulate existing unofficial routes, introduce seasonal access based on ecological sensitivity, and classify trails by difficulty and risk. Such an approach can widen access without diluting safeguards. The SOPs represent a necessary recalibration. Trekking will always involve risk, but the absence of basic safeguards is indefensible. The new guidelines acknowledge that responsible tourism depends not just on access, but on discipline, preparedness, and respect for fragile landscapes.

REFORM, WEAPONISED

What a failed bill says about the state of democracy

Political noise is burying the women's reservation discourse, amid signals of a weakening democratic order

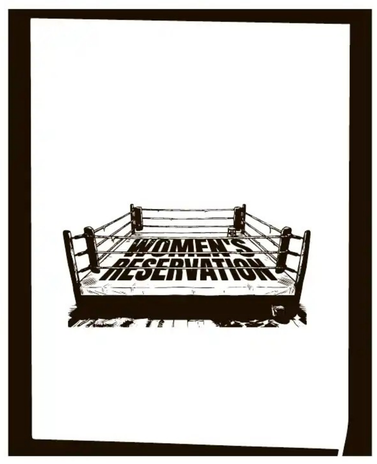
JAGDISH RATTANANI

Women's reservation in the Lok Sabha should have been a straightforward affair. The government says it wants it; the Opposition is all for it. Yet, what the nation received was not the reservation for women but a bill designed to fail. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has now gone on the offensive after the collapse of the bill, almost as if the entire purpose was to take the political discourse to a new level of confrontation and bitterness against the Opposition. This is the sorry state Indian democracy has reached. Led by the BJP, this is a culture that has fashioned politics in the image of a boxing ring in which the Opposition must be surprised, shocked, and knocked out every step of the way. The issues surrounding women's reservation are only the latest example of trickster politics contributing to a climate of increased political heat, reduced trust, and the erasure of any scope for bipartisan actions that should be a part of everyday governance in a democracy.

Consider that the bill linked to reservation for women (the 131st Constitution Amendment Bill) arrived in the midst of important, hotly contested state elections. Without any prior circulation or consultation, the Bill—which requires a two-thirds majority in the House—was introduced with surprise clauses: a new and hurried delimitation exercise that would increase the Lok Sabha seats from 543 to 850, reserving 33% of the strength for women before the 2029 polls. The government should have known that such a drastic change would not pass without due consultation. The inevitable collapse of the Bill then became the ground for a renewed attack against the Opposition as part of the BJP's election campaign.

Quite obviously, the Bill was opposed by the Southern states. Passing the Bill meant that the Southern states would lose seats proportionally as their populations reached fertility or near-fertility levels, while the Northern, BJP-controlled states would gain seats despite (or because of) poorer development efforts. Furthermore, how can a government that has never built confidence with the Opposition be trusted with redrawing parliamentary boundaries in a delimitation process that is not due for several years yet? Lack of support for such a plan was obvious.

Yet came the Bill, followed by its expected collapse, and the BJP appeared to use this as fodder for a new slanging match to present itself as a supporter of women's reservation while the Opposition was painted black. The sorry episode was made worse by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address to



the nation on April 18, which reduced a high public office to a party appendage amid state elections. Instead of a non-partisan explanation of the fiasco over the Bill, the address resembled pamphleteering for and by the BJP.

The Prime Minister named the opposition parties and blamed them for not wanting reservations for women when the issue at stake was deep mistrust in the government and its short-term agenda for the 2029 elections. In the process, an opportunity to rise as a statesman-leader duty-bound to explain, clarify, and bring the nation together was lost. The loss may count for nothing in the BJP's playbook, but it marks one more notch down on the slippery slope towards a breakdown of trust that further reduces the space for engaging across the aisle.

A widening trust deficit

Meanwhile, the issue of reservation is now languishing amid political noise that avoids the real question: How can the government immediately implement the reservation for women, as the Opposition has indeed demanded, without waiting for a new delimitation process and all the contentious issues it brings? Over the weekend, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) introduced a private members' constitution amendment bill to implement 33% reservation of seats for women based on the current Lok Sabha strength, without requiring delimitation or census reports. It is noteworthy that it is the Trinamool Congress that has the highest number of women in the Lok Sabha as a percentage of its sitting members at 38% (11 women out of 29), while the BJP sits at a low of 13% (31 women out of 240).

In sum, what the entire exercise achieved was the breakdown of what is sometimes described as vertical trust and horizontal trust. The former is between the ruling class and the people who elect them. The latter is trust among citizens, who must jointly work the levers of the democratic State and its institutions to watch and exert the required pressure to keep the rulers in check. A balanced give-and-take is thus the lifeblood of a democratic order. But as a vocabulary of violence takes hold and as shriller voices are encouraged, they shrink the space for civil discourse and reduce democratic voices. The resultant reduced trust signals a declining democratic order that should be the biggest worry for the nation at this stage. The bill that failed thus tells the deeper story of all that is going wrong in the Indian democracy, bit by bit, in areas that are clearly visible and sometimes in many invisible ways.

The tone set at the top is liable to be mimicked by party leaders and workers down the line. Consequently, the same concoction of violent language, threats, or bullying will be tried in a hundred other ways across the country in situations that may never hit the headlines but will deliver their tiny blows to break democracy and turn people off. With its superior budgets, the BJP may claim a win for today, but its actions are body blows to the democratic spirit of a nation that still famously recalls the first special address to the nation – the "tryst with destiny" that inspired not only India but also the world.

(The writer is a journalist and faculty member at SPJIMR; Syndicate: The Billion Press)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

High-altitude linguistic mysteries

Schooling seems to have taken away the sweetness of our mother tongues

NAJIB SHAH

I had just sat down in the aircraft, buckling up, returning from the pollution capital where they keep assuring you that the AQI is under 200 and your lungs scream that it is more towards 500 when the captain began throwing numbers at us. Altitude, cruise speed, before coming to the information we were all interested in, the likely arrival time. And since we're up in the air and not on the roads of Namma Bengaluru, the time indicated should indeed be the arrival time.

The cabin supervisor (this is so much better, don't you think, than the very sexist air hostess; have you ever heard the male steward being called 'airhost'?) introduced herself and her all-ladies' crew. We were told that the crew knew English, Hindi, Bengali, Tamil, Punjabi, Marathi and Manipuri. Gabbar Singh style, I mulled over this bit of information – crew four and languages, seven – and I had no Kalia with me to ask.

My reading material had been checked in with the luggage; I thought I would use my flying time linking a crew member to their language. I left out English, Macaulay's blessing or curse, and Hindi, both almost our *lingua francas*. That left five languages. As the crew members went past, I tried looking closely at the name badge but gave it up. I thought it would be rude or, worse, invite a reprimand. In any case modern names have become very bland.

I started looking at other giveaways. The complexion and features, perhaps, but was foxed as to how a typical Marathi looks. Plus, I thought that was being racist. I mused further. My mind strayed to the beauty of our country, the sheer range of cultures and languages, each with their rich history, so layered, so wonderful, and the fact that almost everybody knows more than one language.

The food service began. I thought their pronunciations should be a giveaway – the Tamilians with their distinct intonation, the Punjabis with their 'is-standing', and the Bengalis with their sweet tongue sweetened further as if with *rasgullas* on either cheek. I gave up that too. All seemed uniformly undistinctive, convent schooling having taken away the sweetness of their mother tongues. Two hours had lapsed and I had made no headway. I thought I should ask but gave up that idea too. I did not want to make it appear as if I were making a pass. We were heading for touchdown, and I was none the wiser. Next time you fly, try this. It keeps you occupied; and if you are not the shy but avuncular type, you could ask to either know or confirm.

I got off the flight, not knowing how the time had passed, to be greeted by my regular taxi driver. Namaskara, Sir, the flight late *tha*, Sir?

What language was this – Kannada, English or Hindi?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Model code under strain

Your editorial 'Blurring lines: Politics in the PM's address' (Apr 21) tolls a cautionary bell that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has clearly violated the model code of conduct by making a political speech in his address to the nation on Saturday about the defeat of the Bill on women's reservation, squarely blaming the Opposition parties and accusing them of committing the 'foeticide' of the Bill. The Union government was in an undue haste to get the Bill passed without prior consultation with the Opposition parties, for which it could be equally charged with having forcibly aborted the Bill. Therefore, if elections are to be free and fair and to make the electoral democracy meaningful, the Election Commission should act impartially, without fear or favour, and provide a level playing field to all political parties.

M Basavaraj, Davanagere

Justice and bias

This refers to two different cases, 'Delhi HC rejects Kejriwal's recusal plea' and 'Rahul citizenship row: HC judge steps aside' (Apr 21). In the first, Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma, in spite of several objections raised by the complainant, said she would not recuse herself. The apprehension of bias included her attending an RSS-affiliated lawyers' confederation on four occasions, and the fact that her son and daughter are empanelled lawyers with Government of India. But Justice Sharma would have none of it. On the other hand, in the latter case, Allahabad HC judge Justice Subhash Vidyarthi, hearing Rahul Gandhi's dual citizenship matter, recused himself, taking objection to a social media post by the complainant. The contrast between the two decisions is striking. In both cases, the decisions appear to be off the mark.

Vijaya Krishna Kumar K T, Bengaluru

SC bench in south

I refer to your editorial 'A case for decentralising justice' (Apr 21). Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's concern for establishing Supreme Court benches in southern states is commendable and relevant. However, there is strength in collective action, and southern states must present a united representation to the SC, notwithstanding their political affiliations. It may be recalled that in July 2000, the SC rejected the demand for a High Court bench in North Karnataka. Given this background, will the SC concede to establishing its benches in southern states, as recommended by 18th Law Commission?

T V Pandarinath Naidu, Kudige

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

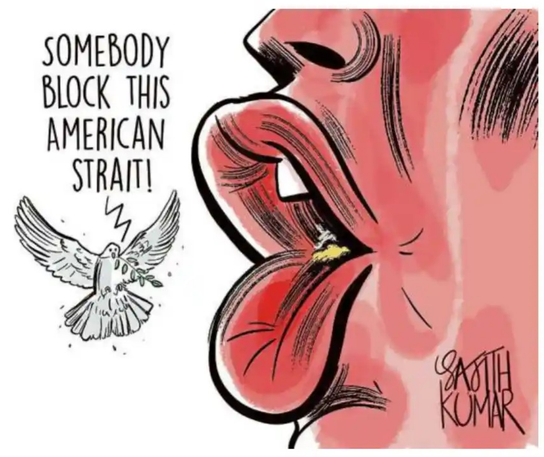
Sometimes I wonder if someone has done black magic on (Siddaramaiah). I'm investigating it...When trouble comes, it won't spare an atheist or a believer. I don't believe in black magic, but it's possible.

K N Rajanna, Congress MLA

We cannot reason ourselves out of our basic irrationality.

Aldous Huxley

TO BE PRECISE



IN PERSPECTIVE

FTA with EU tests India's compliance

To access full benefits, India must accelerate its sustainability push and protect MSMEs from regulatory costs

POOJA VERMA AND KRITHIKA RAVISHANKAR

Earlier this month, an 11-member European parliament delegation was in India for consultations with Indian parliamentarians and government officials. A key discussion point during the three-day visit was the early implementation of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and the European Union (EU).

Negotiations for the joint India-EU FTA concluded and were formally announced in late January 2026 during the 16th India-EU Summit. As a comprehensive partnership encompassing goods, services, investments, and intellectual property, the FTA aims to significantly boost bilateral trade by eliminating or reducing over 90% of tariffs and deepening market access. At a time when supply chain security is increasingly important, it promises to bolster supply chain resilience by diversifying sourcing dependency. Currently in the ratification phase, the FTA is expected to come into force by early 2027.

While the opportunity is huge, harnessing it requires thorough preparation. The FTA has a dedicated chapter on 'Trade and Sustainable Development,' and commitments made therein are legally binding. These primarily relate to implementing the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), safeguarding workers' rights in line with the core International Labour Organisation (ILO) principles, and furthering women's economic empowerment and gender equality. Compliance with international regulations is, therefore, a clear prerequisite for leveraging the deal.

The EU has a strong, rapidly evolving regulatory framework: recent regulations include the 2023 Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) that aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and biodiversity loss by boosting the consumption of 'deforestation-free' products.

Though India has mandated Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) disclosure for its top 1,000 listed companies, it needs to integrate ESG principles more firmly into core operations, aligning responsible sourcing and production with gender equality and labour rights. More enterprises need to embed global sustainability standards into their functioning. They must also prioritise emissions accounting and clean technology adoption

But perhaps the most concerning area in the context of this economic partnership is the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM). There are still no concessions for India under the FTA regarding CBAM. As a mechanism to encourage alignment with the EU's climate standards, CBAM can impose tangible costs on Indian exporters, especially the micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) whose capacity to measure, report, and reduce embedded emissions is limited. Although India has a 'most-favoured nation' assurance, exporters may face immediate losses from carbon levies, while reduced import duties on European goods increase competitive pressure on domestic industries.

Safeguards for MSMEs

Furthermore, the EU's Industrial Accelerator Act mandates that products like steel, batteries, and electric vehicles must have a substantial portion of their parts (or value) manufactured inside the EU to qualify for EU government contracts, subsidies, tax breaks, and, crucially, low-carbon labels. For Indian MSMEs, meeting these requirements implies costly operations such as relocating factories or partnering with EU firms. This can hurt export competitiveness and offset the tariff benefits promised under the FTA, tipping the balance in the EU's favour.

India has implemented the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme, which will eventually reduce the CBAM payments it owes the EU. Additionally, the Ministry of Steel is pushing for standardisation of green steel and expediting decarbonisation of the steel industry, which will ease compliance with the EU CBAM. But policies for protecting MSMEs from CBAM's impact are largely missing. Given that MSMEs account for 30% of the GDP, 46% of exports, and employ 24.4 crore people, safeguarding their interests is crucial.

This requires comprehensive domestic policy support, including concessional credit lines, credit guarantees, or interest subvention schemes to help firms and investments in cleaner technologies, energy efficiency, and emissions monitoring systems.

Parallelly, India and the EU should foster technology access, capacity-building, and regulatory coordination, such as harmonisation of carbon accounting methodologies and sustainability certifications. Moreover, India should seek the EU's cooperation on phased implementation timelines, giving firms time to adapt, reduce compliance costs, and remain competitive.

While discussions on fast-tracking the FTA abound, accelerating preparedness is more important. India must proceed at full throttle to ready itself for the 'mother of all deals' so that the partnership is a win-win for both nations.

(Pooja is an analyst in the sustainability group, and Krithika is a senior associate in the climate change mitigation group at the Centre for Study of Science, Technology and Policy [CSTEP])

Expanding access: The democratisation of reading and research

VIJI THIYAGARAJAN

India presents a defining paradox in the global knowledge economy. It is among the fastest-growing digital markets, with projections suggesting the digital economy could contribute nearly one-fifth of national income by 2029–30, yet access to credible reading and research resources remains deeply uneven.

Even as India's internet user base has crossed over 960 million, only about 32,000 of the country's 1.5 million schools currently have digital libraries. It underscores that the divide is no longer merely about connectivity but about access to knowledge.

This asymmetry is also visible in India's research ecosystem. Despite ranking third globally in scientific publications, concerns persist about quality. The urgency is structural. With over 65% of India's population under 35 and ambitions to achieve a 50% gross enrolment ratio in higher education by 2035, unequal access to knowledge risks entrenching unequal opportunity.

Digital libraries, with their power to reduce informational privilege and enable intellectual access at scale, constitute critical public knowledge infrastructure. Their significance lies in democratising and decentralising knowledge, with access no longer mediated by geography, income, or institutional affiliation.

Through digital libraries, learning can be extended beyond classrooms, enabling asynchronous and remote education models. Initiatives such as the National Digital Library of India illustrate how integrated, networked platforms can create a single-window gateway to diverse academic resources while enabling anytime, anywhere learning. Additionally, digital libraries serve a broad spectrum of users, from students and researchers to educators.

With policy intent and digital infrastructure beginning to converge, India stands at an inflection point in its knowledge journey. The country's early investments, such as the Digital Library of India (DLI), laid the groundwork for large-scale digitisation of literary, scientific, and cultural resources.

The launch of the Traditional Medicine Global Library is a case in point. At the state level, efforts like Uttar Pradesh's rollout of modern digital libraries across 104 gram panchayats in Agra demonstrate how access is being embedded into local governance structures.

Aligned with the priorities of NEP 2020, these efforts move beyond mere access toward enabling multidisciplinary learning and strengthening knowledge parity by ensuring that students in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities and underserved institutions are not just connected to information but are equally empowered to participate in intellectual advancement.

In an era defined by information abundance, access alone can no longer equate to empowerment. Research by the Stanford History Education Group shows over 80% of students struggle to distinguish credible content from misinformation. The infodemic issue is compounded by discoverability challenges, algorithm-driven platforms that prioritise engagement over accuracy and virality of information that often takes precedence over its quality.

Libraries intervene precisely at this intersection of overload and uncertainty. Through structured metadata systems, curated databases, indexing and peer reviews, they transform discovery from a keyword gamble into a guided pathway. Positioned as trusted intermediaries, libraries combine technological infrastructure with human expertise. Besides providing access, the librarians enable discernment, helping users navigate, evaluate and meaningfully engage with knowledge.

Libraries as equalisers

Access to knowledge in India remains structurally unequal, and the last mile is where this inequity is most visible. Even in terms of digital libraries, government schools, the primary access point for first-generation learners, lag sharply. Barely 1.2% of government schools offer digital libraries compared to 5.1% in private institutions.

For non-institutional learners and those in remote geographies, the absence of accessible, credible resources compounds disadvantage. In this context, digital libraries are critical equalisers.

Encouragingly, certain initiatives are beginning to signal a pathway to scale with inclusion. Kerala's constituency-wide rollouts of e-libraries, across high schools in Vypeen, demonstrate how localised policy execution can expand access, even as gaps persist. Complementing this are Karnataka's 'Arivu Kendras'. Through the Kendras, the British Council extends free access to its digital library resources, enabling rural readers to connect with global knowledge platforms and curated English learning content. Such models enable continuous, grassroots engagement that bridges institutional and non-institutional learning.

The future of digital libraries, however, lies not in scale alone but in connected, inclusive, and co-created knowledge ecosystems. UNESCO, through its Information for All Programme, positions libraries as critical infrastructure for inclusive knowledge societies, particularly when aligned with education, culture and digital policy systems.

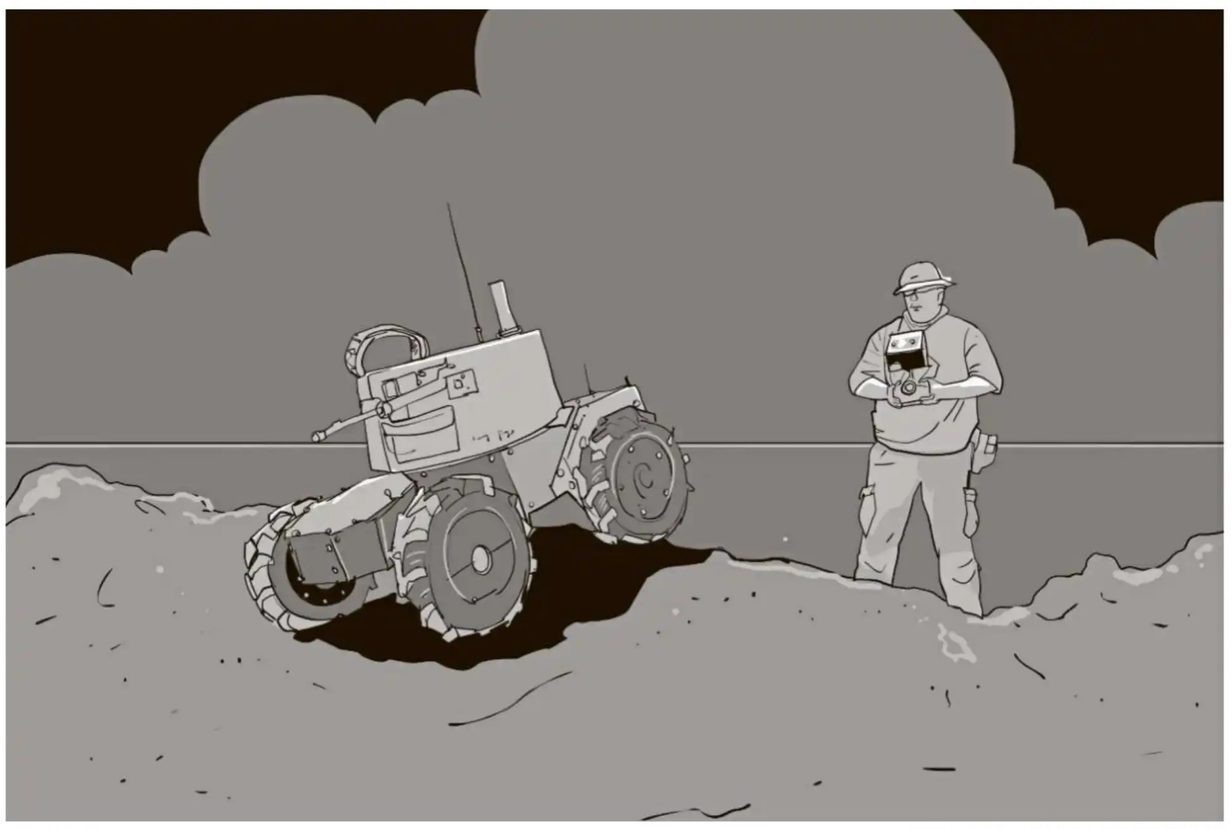
This underscores the need for collaborative models that link libraries with universities, cultural institutions and technology platforms. Public–private and international partnerships are central to this transition. Organisations such as the British Council demonstrate how impactful collaborations can expand access and facilitate cross-border learning and research exchange.

Access to reading and research cannot be regarded as a privilege. It is the bedrock of education, innovation, and social mobility, shaping not only individual opportunity but also collective identity and participation. Digital libraries must therefore be recognised as core nation-building infrastructure that is designed for equity. They must make access affordable, interfaces multilingual and systems inclusive of persons with disabilities. The real measure of progress will be the extent to which it enables informed, capable, and engaged citizens.

(The writer is Director Libraries, Global, British Council)

Ukraine is using unmanned ground vehicles armed with bombs, guns or rockets to carry out attacks and keep its soldiers out of harm's way

MARIA VARENIKOVA



DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

The killer robots are changing the battlefields

The robots charged into battle through a valley in eastern Ukraine, driving over grass towards a Russian position. Essentially little green wagons, they looked like something you might buy at a garden store to move bags of soil around. But each carried 66 pounds of explosives.

As the remotely controlled vehicles approached the enemy soldiers, an aerial drone flew in and dropped a bomb to help clear a path. One of the robots then rushed in and blew itself up, while the others held back, monitoring the position.

A sheet of cardboard appeared above a trench. "We want to surrender," it read. Two Russian soldiers then stepped out and walked to Ukrainian lines to be taken as prisoners of war.

The assault, captured on video last summer, shows how Ukraine is pioneering a new way of war, its leaders say.

Ukraine is trying to turn more of the fighting over to unmanned systems as it struggles with troop shortages and seeks ways to defend itself without risking heavy losses of soldiers. The attack last year, which took place in the Kharkiv region, demonstrates that the Ukrainian military can now seize Russian positions solely with automated weapons, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine said this past week.

Manpower remains the most decisive factor on the battlefield, and any future in which wars are fought mostly by robots appears to be far away. But Ukraine is eager to highlight its advances to show Western partners that its outnumbered army can stay in the fight.

Ukraine also wants to promote a homegrown defence industry that could help the country build security partnerships with other nations.

"It is better to throw in metal than people," said Mykola Zinkevych, a junior lieutenant with the 3rd Army Corps, who commanded the automated attack last year.

"Human life is precious," he added, "and robots don't bleed."

As technology has evolved rapidly on the battlefield in Ukraine, much of the focus has been on the small aerial drones that fill the skies over the front line, keeping watch and attacking virtually anything that moves. But Ukraine is fielding unmanned systems not only in the air but also under the sea and on land.

While ground robots are most widely used for shuttling supplies and for performing medical evacuations in dangerous areas, Ukraine is also using them to conduct attacks at a quickening pace.

Last month, according to the Ukrainian Ministry of Defence, the army carried out more than 9,000 front-line missions using unmanned ground vehicles equipped with explosives, machine guns or other weapons like rockets. By comparison, 2,900 such operations were conducted in November 2025, and a year ago they were rare and experimental.

The ground vehicles are slower and more visible than small quadcopter drones, making them more vulnerable to enemy fire. Most last about 24 hours before their batteries die or they are detected and destroyed. In rare operations when unmanned systems are used to clear a trench, soldiers must then deploy to hold the ground, or at least to replace batteries.

But ground robots can carry much larger explosives than aerial drones can, and they offer a more stable platform for firing guns or rockets.

A Ukrainian military programme that allows soldiers to procure their own weapons using an internal Amazon-style shopping site offers seven models of ground robots, out of a total of 470 types of drones on offer.

Zelenskyy brought attention to his country's automated assaults in a slickly produced video released last week. He is hoping to sell Ukrainian systems abroad or trade them for weapons that his country needs.

"The future is already on the front line, and Ukraine is building it," he says in the clip, with ground robots, aerial drones and missiles illuminated dramatically behind him.

The video was released before a round of meetings with European leaders. As Ukraine seeks continued military assistance, the government has been eager to show that it is not just a charity case but also a valuable ally that can help other countries strengthen their defences.

Ihor Fedirko, the executive director of the Ukrainian Council of Defence Industry, a trade organisation, said, "Even if you have a top-tier radar, a system that integrates data, or the most advanced drones, even those battle-tested in Ukraine, the key factor is how they are used tactically." It is this tactical application of unmanned systems that Ukraine can offer, he added.

Before the assault last summer in the Kharkiv region, the Ukrainian army had lost soldiers trying to storm the trench holding Russian forces, Zinkevych, the 3rd Army Corps officer, said.

He had previously served in an infantry assault unit that stormed trenches before taking a role planning unmanned operations. For operational secrecy, the military did not immediately release the information about the robotic assault, he said, as its success spurred other units to try similar tactics.

The use of unmanned ground vehicles in attacks is less about cutting-edge technology and more about instruction in adapting existing systems, said Lt Volodymyr Dehtyarov, public affairs officer for the Khartia Corps of the National Guard of Ukraine.

"Everything always comes down to how well the commander, staff and operators are trained," Dehtyarov said. "Nothing fundamentally new has appeared, but there are new tactics for robots' use."

Operations have become more elaborate since the summertime assault in Kharkiv.

In late February, Russian soldiers occupied a school in the city of Kupiansk in eastern Ukraine. They used the building, which had thick walls, to store ammunition and as a hideout for a drone attack team. The Russian troops put nets over every window, preventing Ukraine from flying an exploding drone into the building.

Lt Andrii Kopach, commander of an unmanned ground systems company with the Khartia Corps, planned an assault with robotic vehicles instead.

One robot carried rockets with thermobaric warheads that are effective in closed spaces, Kopach said. Others held large explosive payloads, one weighing more than 500 pounds.

The vehicles left on their mission in the middle of the night in a snowstorm, to give them protection from Russian drones, Kopach said. He noted that the drivers and pilots carried out the operation from the safety of a city far from the front, using relays for the video and radio commands.

When the robots reached the school building, the vehicle with rockets opened fire, forcing the Russian troops away from the windows, Kopach said. Two other robots then drove nearby or into the building and detonated, setting off the stored ammunition. The building collapsed with at least nine Russian soldiers inside, Kopach said. One managed to crawl out.

That soldier, Kopach added, was killed with an aerial exploding drone that accompanied the assault.

The New York Times

Securing trust in India's digital surge

GOPAL B HOSUR

Consumer trust has become the silent infrastructure of India's digital economy. Yet recent developments show how fragile that foundation can be. Just last month, the Supreme Court described nearly Rs 52,000 crore lost to bank frauds as "absolute robbery". Likewise, it recently asked Meta, the global tech giant, to exit India if it cannot secure data flows. This chain of events points to the non-negotiables of public data security amid the proliferation of digital technologies across sectors in India.

Although Indian businesses are making impressive strides in digitisation, public trust often fades into the background. However, with the government establishing DPDP rules (Digital Personal Data Protection) and the Supreme Court urging the Centre to bolster safeguards against digital fraud, businesses are nudged further to prioritise consumer trust through proactive measures.

Most digital fraud does not begin with direct, sophisticated attacks, but rather, it begins with access. Perpetrators gain a foothold when identity checks at the entry point are weak or can be easily bypassed. In banking frauds, for instance, mule accounts are created and later used as conduits for criminal transactions. As per recent data, around 4,000 mule accounts are reported daily. For banks and digital service providers, nipping fraud in the bud is always better than investigating it after the loss.

During my years in policing, successful cases often depended on identifying small gaps, a missing link, an overlooked pattern, or an unverified identity. Today, the same investigative discipline can be applied digitally, too. Digital profiling tools can be helpful for that investigative journey. It can analyse digital footprints like device IDs, IP patterns, and behaviour to verify user genuineness before access is granted. This pins fraudsters before they strike, creating a safe journey for customers.

Additionally, they also voraciously analyse behavioural patterns to identify cues to understand whether an account is being used for money laundering or any other fraudulent activities. They screen the profiles against the global AML (Anti-Money Laundering) watchlist to avoid high-risk individuals and safeguard the system against risks. Most importantly, these tools work silently in the background and do not interfere with the consumer experience, making it a win-win for the business and the consumers, who are looking for trustworthy platforms.

Such pragmatic approaches put consumer and system safety at the forefront to avoid unfortunate scenarios like that of the Rs 52,000 crore frauds. This empowers financial institutions and other digital service providers to play a proactive role in preventing cyber-enabled fraud and building consumer trust.

Fraud-proof profiling blocks bad actors at the gate, but the DPDP framework demands equal focus on user empowerment to build trust. Unlike earlier opaque practices, businesses now need clear consent notices detailing exactly what data is collected and why. Therefore, organisations should ensure consent collection is transparent, granular, and fully revocable at the user's request.

However, managing this manually can be a strenuous task. Businesses can instead rely on consent management platforms to collect customer data in line with DPDP requirements and record consent with timestamps, keeping them audit-ready and helping avoid the hefty penalties that come with non-compliance. When customers have visibility into how their data is used, it strengthens trust in the brand.

This long-term trust also contributes directly to fraud defence. When customers have control over their data through audit-ready systems, they are more likely to report anomalies early and remain loyal to organisations that protect them. This way, consent and profiling become symbiotic, as one helps prevent digital fraud and the other helps build digital trust.

India's digital ecosystem is expanding rapidly, but its stability will depend on how consistently safety and accountability are built into everyday transactions. Regulation alone cannot achieve this outcome. Businesses must treat data protection and fraud prevention as continuous responsibilities. Systems that verify users in the right way, record consent clearly, and detect misuse promptly will naturally see fewer disputes and stronger customer relationships. As more citizens rely on digital platforms for financial and essential services, trust will become the benchmark for adoption. Organisations that prioritise preventive safeguards and user transparency will always shine bright.

(The writer is a former IPS officer, Karnataka)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: APRIL 1976

Bangla forces open fire again

New Delhi, April 21
For the second day yesterday, Bangla Desh side resorted to "unprovoked heavy fire with mortar and automatic weapons" on a Border Security Force patrol inside the Indian territory in Meghalaya. Both sides suffered casualties in the exchange of fire. The BSF patrol was well inside the Indian territory at Dumnikura in the Garo Hills District of Meghalaya at 5.30 am yesterday when it was fired upon, a press note said. Mortars and automatic weapons were used against the BSF men who initially wanted to withdraw to avoid casualties on both sides.

25 YEARS AGO: APRIL 2001

Eco report dampens KIOCL prospects

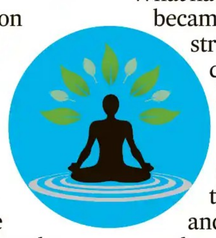
Bangalore, April 21
In what could virtually seal the future prospects of Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited (KIOCL), a Rapid Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Report has said that no mining should be allowed in Gangdikal and Nellibeedu areas. The study, commissioned at the instance of the Ministry of Environment and Forests to look into the impact on flora and fauna of the Kudremukh National Park, has said it would cause immense damage to the biodiversity and water resources in the area.

OASIS | DOROTHY VICTOR

Love transcends death

Christians around the world have just observed the most sacred days of Good Friday and Easter Sunday, commemorating the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. At the heart of the Christian faith lies this profound mystery: that though Jesus Christ, in atonement for the sins of the world, endured a humiliating death on the cross, God raised Him up in glory on the third day.

The cross is the ultimate sign of Christ's boundless love for humanity. St. Paul, in his letter to the Romans, writes, "But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." These words reveal a love that is not merely spoken, but lived and given, even onto and beyond death.



I found myself reflecting on this truth as I mourned the passing of a woman I had known for over a decade. Alongside her husband, she served our neighbourhood with quiet dignity, providing services for local families. Though they came from humble, rural backgrounds and had little formal education, they carried themselves with grace, humility, and deep respect for others.

Their lives changed abruptly when the woman was diagnosed with a serious illness a few months back. What had been a life of steady rhythm became one of uncertainty and struggle. I can never forget the care her husband showed her throughout her illness and treatment. Although he was weighed down by the suddenness and severity of the illness, he rose to her need and did his best. She in turn endured with love and courage all the suffering just to get well for her family.

Through the generosity of many and the support of crowdfunding efforts, money was raised for her treatment. Unfortunately, complications arose during the treatment, and tragically, she passed away. Yet, through her love and courage, she will live in the hearts of all who knew her.

In her death, I glimpsed a reflection, however human and fragile, of that same sacrificial love revealed on the cross by Jesus Christ. Her life, though taken away sadly bore witness to a truth that is at the very core of Christian faith and fundamental to every human heart that nurtures true love for others - that love, when given fully, has a power that transcends even death.

Mob attacks Manipur CM event; police open fire

Singh forced to take chopper as protesters block convoy

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

A Village Defence Force (VDF) personnel was injured in Manipur's Thoubal district after security forces opened fire on a mob that allegedly tried to vandalise an event attended by Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh.

Manipur Police said a large group armed with stones and catapults advanced towards the function organised for the inauguration of a block development office at Wangjing in Thoubal district, about 25 km from the state capital Imphal.

"Despite repeated warnings and appeals by police personnel to disperse, the crowd continued to move aggressively, posing a serious threat to public property, dignitaries present, and overall law and order," the police said in a statement.

Police said they opened fire as a "last resort", in which Elangbam Nandbir Singh, 40, was injured.

ON THE BOIL
VDF personnel injured in Thoubal firing

MOB ARMED WITH STONES, CATAPULTS STORMS CM EVENT

Police say firing was 'last resort'

Valley protests over Bishnupur child killings continue

Naga groups enforce shutdown after Ukhrul killings

CM takes chopper

Earlier, CM Singh had to take a chopper to reach the event venue at Wangjing from Imphal after angry protesters blocked his convoy en route to Thoubal. "The CM took the chopper to show respect to the sentiment of the people," an official told *DH*.

The protesters were enraged as the CM defied the "public shutdown" called in the Meitei-dominated valley districts to protest the killing of two children in Bishnupur district on April 7. Three protesters were killed in firing by security forces soon after the killings at Tronglaobi village.

The valley has remained on the boil since, with protesters — mainly women — taking to the streets at night and frequently clashing with security forces. They have accused the Singh government of failing to nab those involved in the attack. The government had earlier asked the NIA to investigate the case.

Addressing the function at Wangjing, CM Singh said he was surprised to face opposition to his visit in the valley, whereas he encountered no hurdles in travelling to the hill districts. "Differences can be sorted out by sitting together. All solutions come after talks between the parties involved," he said.

Referring to the Tronglaobi killings, Singh said the government had assured the Joint Action Committee (leading the protest) that their demands would be met, including providing jobs to the parents of the victims.

Expressing strong resentment over the five-day total shutdown, the CM said such unwarranted and senseless activities create confusion among the general public, and sometimes the government feels sorry for the situation, according to a statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office.

Meanwhile, several Naga organisations, enforced the shutdown in Naga-dominated districts on Tuesday. The protest was called against the killing of two Naga men in Ukhrul district on April 18.

Won't Constitution protect believer? SC in Sabarimala case

Questions denial of right to touch the deity

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the chief priest of the Sabarimala Ayyappa Temple whether the Constitution would not come to the rescue of a believer denied the right to touch the deity.

The remark by the nine-judge Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant came after the chief priest, during the hearing, said that when a devotee goes to a temple for worship, it cannot be in antagonism to the characteristics of the deity.

The court is hearing a batch of review petitions concerning discrimination against women at religious places, including the Sabarimala Temple in Kerala, and on the ambit and scope of religious freedom practised by multiple faiths.

Senior advocate V Giri, representing the temple's tantri, submitted to the top court that rituals and ceremonies form an integral part of religion and constitute essential religious practice.

A devotee visiting a temple must accept the essential characteristics of the deity. Worship cannot be in antagonism to those characteristics, because the purpose is to surrender to the divine spirit embodied in the deity. He or she has to accept the essential attributes of the deity, Giri said.

He added that the Sabarimala deity is a "Naishtika Brahmachari", or perennial celibate, and all ceremonies at the temple are in sync with this characteristic. "The petitioners challenging the restriction have failed to show that this concept is ill-founded or does not form an essential part of the religion," he said.

Upon this, Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah asked, "When I go to a temple, my fundamental belief is that he is the lord, my creator, the one who has created me, right?

"I go there with complete faith, totally devoted, with nothing impure in my heart. And then I am told that because of birth, lineage, or a certain situation, I am permanently not allowed to touch the deity. Will the Constitution not come to the rescue?" Justice Amanullah asked, adding that there cannot be a difference between the creator and the creation.

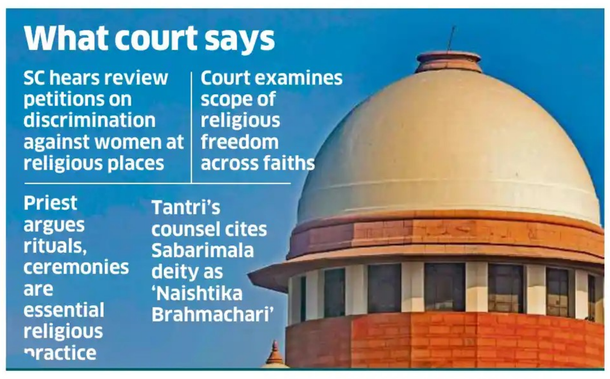
To this, Giri replied that if there is a complete ban on anyone becoming a priest, it would be addressed either through legislation under Article 25(2)(b) or by the State itself.

During the hearing, Justice BV Nagarathna referred to the principles of the Agamas, which prescribe practices for deities in specific shrines. For instance, in some Shiva temples one may offer water on the lingam, while in others the lingam cannot be touched at all.

"Not because of who you are, but because of what the anushthana of that temple requires," she said.

The hearing in the matter will continue on Wednesday.

What court says



SC hears review petitions on discrimination against women at religious places

Court examines scope of religious freedom across faiths

Priest argues rituals, ceremonies are essential religious practice

Tantri's counsel cites Sabarimala deity as 'Naishtika Brahmachari'

Hormuz strains have direct implications for India: Rajnath

NEW DELHI, PTI: In the backdrop of the ongoing West Asian conflict, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday said disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz are not distant events, they are stark realities with direct implications for India's security and economic stability.

Rajnath Singh

Addressing the German Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence and Security on day one of his three-day visit to the country, he also asserted that the world today is faced with new security threats, and the technological transformation has made the situation highly complex and intricately connected.

The defence minister also made a strong pitch for enhanced collaboration between the defence industrial ecosystems of India and Germany.

"For a developing country like India, which relies on the West Asian region for a significant share of its energy requirements, disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz are not distant events, they are stark realities with direct implications for our security and economic stability," Singh said.

To deal with modern-day global challenges, Singh underscored the need for coordinated responses and trusted strategic partnerships.

People wait for LPG cylinder refills on a hot summer day amid supply crisis, in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, on Tuesday, when temperature shot above 40°C. PTI

Domestic fuel prices stable despite global volatility: Govt

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Centre on Tuesday said that India has successfully maintained stable domestic fuel prices despite sharp increases and volatility in global crude oil prices due to the West Asia conflict.

The Indian crude oil basket has nearly doubled, according to the government.

"If you see, in January, our Indian crude basket was around $63 per barrel, which increased to $113 per barrel in March and in April; the average is around $116 per barrel," said Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

"Despite sharp increases and volatility in global prices, India has managed to keep domestic fuel prices comparatively lower than those of its neighbours. Our prices among neighbouring countries are among the lowest," she added.

She also said the government is fast-tracking the transition from LPG to piped natural gas, a more reliable alternative less affected by West Asia disruptions.

5L new PNG connections

More than 5.01 lakh new PNG connections have been gasified since March. Over 5.68 lakh consumers have registered for fresh connections. Till April 19, about 39,400 PNG consumers have surrendered their LPG connections, she said.

Domestic LPG supply remains stable with no dry-outs reported at any distributorship. Online bookings have risen to 98% across the industry. Delivery authentication code-based supplies have increased to 92% to curb diversion. Commercial LPG availability has been restored to around 70% of pre-crisis levels.

The government has doubled daily supplies of 5-kg LPG cylinders for migrant workers. Since late March, over 19.2 lakh such cylinders have been sold through nationwide campaigns.

Sales of commercial LPG stood at about 123,680 tonnes in April through April 20, equivalent to over 65 lakh 19-kg cylinders, with 8,822 tonnes sold on April 20 alone, she said.

(With PTI inputs)

Govt tightens rules for AI-generated content

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) on Tuesday proposed tighter disclosure norms for AI-generated content, making it mandatory to display a continuous and clearly visible label on all synthetically generated visual material throughout its entire duration.

The new requirement replaces the earlier provision under the IT Rules that only mandated "prominent visibility" of such disclosures.

A ministry official stated that a watermark or disclosure shown only in the opening seconds of AI-generated content will no longer be enough. The revised rules, if approved, require the label to remain visible on screen for the entire duration of the AI-generated material, said the official.

This is likely significantly affect short-form video platforms and news broadcasters using AI visuals.

The latest proposal comes as a late addition to a broader package of draft amendments to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.

The ministry had first published the draft amendments on March 30 for public consultation, with a comment deadline of April 29. On Tuesday, the ministry extended that deadline to May 7, citing the need to give stakeholders time to examine the new proposal before responding.

In the said rules, in rule 3, in sub-rule (3), in clause (a), in sub-clause (ii), for the words, 'that ensures prominent visibility in the visual display', the words and punctuation 'that ensures continuous and clearly visible display of such label throughout the duration of the content, in a visual display' shall be substituted," the IT Ministry said, circulating the draft changes for feedback.

The ministry said it is placing the additional amendments in the public domain for consultation "in order to provide stakeholders an opportunity to examine and submit feedback on the additional changes along with the earlier draft amendments".

"In addition to the draft amendments already placed in the public domain, further changes have been proposed in Rule 3(3)(a)(ii), which requires continuous and clearly visible display of label for synthetically generated information throughout the duration of the content in visual display," the IT Ministry said in another notice.

Adding this to the draft IT rules amendment that, among other changes, proposes to bring independent news creators on the Centre's radar.

Label must

Makes it mandatory to display a continuous label on all AI-generated visual material throughout its entire duration

Likely to affect short-form video platforms and news broadcasters using AI visuals.

The latest proposal comes as a late addition to a broader package of draft amendments to the IT Rules

Centre forms team to probe HPCL Rajasthan refinery fire

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has constituted a four-member investigation team, headed by former Managing Director of Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL), M Venkatesh, to probe the fire at the HPCL Rajasthan Refinery Ltd (HRRL) in Barmer, Rajasthan.

"The ministry has already constituted a team, which has already reached Barmer. They are investigating the incident. Only after their report is received, we will be able to share what happened, how it happened and how much time it will take to repair," said Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, told media here on Tuesday.

Venugopal submits breach of privilege notice against PM

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Congress MP KC Venugopal submitted a breach of privilege notice against Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the Lok Sabha Speaker on Tuesday, accusing him of casting aspersions on opposition MPs during his address to the nation on April 18, following the rejection of the bills to implement women's reservation by the House.

Venugopal

In his letter to Speaker Om Birla, Venugopal said the prime minister's criticism of the Opposition for his government's failure to muster a two-thirds majority to pass the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026, was "unprecedented", "unethical" and a "blatant misuse of power".

"It is appalling that the PM, who wanted this Constitution Amendment Bill to pass, was so annoyed that he chose to address the nation, casting aspersions on the MPs who were honestly performing their duties, in this case protecting the Constitution," he said.

Modi had singled out Congress, DMK, Samajwadi Party and Trinamool Congress in his address, and said that the opposition's decision to vote against the Bills was not only insulting to women but was comparable to female foeticide.

"Such statements by the highest executive functionary of the country constitute a serious breach of privilege and contempt of the House," Venugopal said.

He said questioning an elected representative performing his duty is "not merely a personal assault but a direct affront to the authority of the Parliament and to the democratic rights of the people".

In his 29-minute televised address, he said Modi criticised the Opposition for blocking the Bill and made "direct reflections on the voting pattern" of MPs, while "attributing motives" to them. Venugopal said a prime minister's address to the nation is "few and far between", as such addresses are delivered on critical matters.

He said the Opposition had made it clear during the debate that they were in favour of women's quota and demanded its early implementation while opposing the government's move to "surreptitiously" bring in amendments for taking away the Constitutional safeguards of the delimitation process and leaving it to the "whims and fancies and malafide intents of the ruling party".

Kharge calls Modi 'terrorist', clarifies later

CHENNAI/NEW DELHI, DHNS: Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday created a stir by calling Prime Minister Narendra Modi a "terrorist" but clarified that he merely meant the latter was "terrorising people and political parties". In turn, the BJP filed a complaint to the Election Commission.

At a press conference in Chennai, Kharge questioned how the AIADMK, which uses the photographs of Dravidian legend C N Annadurai, can ally with Modi. "He (Modi) is a terrorist. His party won't believe in equality and justice. These people are joining with them; it means they are weakening democracy, they are weakening the philosophy of Annadurai, Kamaraj, Periyar, Kalaignar, and Baba Saheb Ambedkar," Kharge said.

He immediately clarified that all he said was that the PM was terrorising people and political parties. "I never said he is a terrorist," he said.

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE
Congress chief

"How these AIADMK people, who themselves put the photo of Annadurai... how can they join with Modi? He is a terrorist... he doesn't believe in equality.

AMIT MALVIYA
BJP IT chief

"CONGRESS CROSSES A DANGEROUS LINE! Kharge, in broad daylight, calls PM Modi a 'TERRORIST', not in some closed-room rant, but on stage, with cameras rolling.

"What I want to clarify is that Modi always threatens... He wants to take delimitation also into his hands. I said, in that context, he is terrorising people and political parties," Kharge added.

However, the BJP was quick to take aim at the Congress. In a letter to the Election Commission, the BJP said that the comment was a violation of the Model Code of Conduct, and Kharge should apologise.

The BJP has also asked the EC to initiate suitable penal and regulatory proceedings that penalise false statements and defamation.

BJP leader and Union Minister Piyush Goyal sought an apology from both Rahul Gandhi and DMK chief MK Stalin.

"The Congress and DMK have stooped to such a low level that they have called a democratically elected prime minister a terrorist," Goyal said.

BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra said that the comment is condemnable and shows the true mindset of the Congress.

Defence ministry inks Rs 975-cr deal for T-72, T-90 tank equipment

NEW DELHI, PTI: The defence ministry on Tuesday signed contracts worth nearly Rs 975 crore for the procurement of critical equipment for T-72 and T-90 tanks of the army, which will enhance the minefield breaching capability of the force.

The contracts were inked in the presence of defence secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh in Delhi.

The ministry, in a statement, said it has signed contracts with Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) and Electro Pneumatics and Hydraulics (India) Private Limited for the "procurement of TRAWL Assembly for T-72/T-90 tanks, at an approximate cost of Rs 975 crore".

The 'TRAWL Assembly' for T-72/T-90 tanks is critical equipment developed by the DRDO that will enhance the minefield breaching capability of the Indian Army.

"It would generate additional capability of creating vehicle safe lanes through minefields with anti-tank mines with proximity magnetic fuses, thus enhancing the operational effectiveness of the Indian Army," the statement said.

Being a 'Buy (Indian-Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured)' case, it marks a pivotal step towards modernising defence infrastructure and empowering indigenous industries, which will be a flag-bearer of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, the statement said.

Security personnel patrol Dal Lake amid heightened alert ahead of the first anniversary of the Pahalgam terror attack, in Srinagar, on Tuesday. PTI

BIG CATWALK

Tiger, cheetah & leopard spotted together at Ranthambore

JAIPUR, PTI

A tiger, a leopard and a cheetah, three of the world's most elusive apex predators, were sighted simultaneously in a tourist zone of the Ranthambore Tiger Reserve, a moment experts describe as "extremely rare" and "scientifically intriguing".

The unusual convergence was witnessed on Sunday in Zone 9 of the reserve, located along the banks of the Chakal river, about 45 minutes from the main gate.

The three apex predators were spotted within an estimated range of one-two kilometres at the same time, thrilling tourists and drawing attention from conservationists, said Ranthambore's Deputy Conservator of Forest and Deputy Field Director Manas Singh.

"Forest chose to surprise. In Zone 9, a tiger, a leopard, and a cheetah, three of the wild's most elusive beings, sighted in the same landscape, in a single window of time," the forest department said on Instagram.

"Moments like these are rare, unscripted, and impossible to plan. They remind us what our forests are truly capable of," it added.

Wildlife expert Rajkumar Chauhan said the phenomenon is intriguing because each of the three species occupies a different ecological niche despite being apex predators.

"Such proximity among three large carnivores with distinct territorial and hunting strategies is extremely rare," he said.

Tigers are dominant, solitary carnivores that control large territories and often suppress the presence of other predators in core areas. Leopards, though adaptable, usually avoid direct encounters with tigers. They tend to shift to denser or more rugged terrain.

Cheetahs, in contrast, are diurnal hunters that prefer open grasslands and rely on speed rather than strength, making forested habitats and tiger-dominated landscapes less typical for their movement.

Chauhan said the likelihood of an overlap between these animals at the same time and space is inherently low.

Top court orders humane treatment as juvenile spends 2 years in jail

UP govt agrees to pay Rs 5 lakh as compensation

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court has held that the prompt and humane treatment of a child in conflict with law (CCL) must be undertaken in light of the objectives of the Juvenile Justice Act.

A bench of Justices JK Maheshwari and Atul S Chandurkar emphasised that the statutory mandate of the Act is not merely procedural but also advances the guarantee under Article 21 of the Constitution.

"Any lapse in ensuring the immediate transfer of a declared juvenile to an observation home from a regular jail not only defeats the object of the legislation but also results in a serious infraction of the juvenile's right to life," the SC said.

JUSTICE FOR MINOR

- SC order comes on a plea by a juvenile in a twin murder case
- Says any lapse in transfer of juveniles to observation homes serious infraction of law
- Minor released on bail; SC seeks SOPs from Allahabad HC
- Asks all HCs to implement statutory mandate under Juvenile Justice Act

Dealing with a plea by a juvenile delinquent in a twin murder case, the court took exception to his incarceration in a regular jail despite being between 16 and 18 years of age and having been declared a juvenile, albeit in connection with a heinous offence.

Expressing utter dismay that the appellant had remained lodged in a regular jail for more than two and a half years despite his juvenile status, the Uttar Pradesh government agreed to pay Rs 5 lakh as compensation.

Ordering his release on bail, the bench sought a report from the Allahabad High Court's registrar general, who furnished a standard operating procedure (SOP) for such cases. The court also found the HC's observations on offence wholly unwarranted as grounds to deny bail.

The court directed the chief justices of all high courts to examine the SOP and, where no such mechanism has been implemented in their jurisdictions, to take suitable measures to ensure effective implementation of the statutory mandate under the Juvenile Justice Act. This is particularly vital for the prompt communication of orders declaring a person a juvenile and the immediate transfer of juveniles lodged in regular jails to observation homes.

As the implementation of such SOPs ultimately rests with the state governments, the SC further directed that a copy of this order, along with the SOP, be transmitted to the chief secretaries of all states and UTs for appropriate action.

HC directs Assam govt to stop traditional buffalo fights

GUWAHATI, DHNS: Acting on a petition filed by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India, the Gauhati High Court recently asked the Assam government to take steps to stop the traditional buffalo fight and initiate action against those organising such events, the animal rights body said on Tuesday.

PETA India filed a writ petition months after the BJP-led Assam government amended the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, to permit buffalo fights performed during the annual Bhogali Bihu festival.

Buffalo fights are organised at Ahotguri in Morigaon district and several other places as part of the celebrations of the Bhogali Bihu in January every year. But the fight had to be discontinued after PETA India moved the Gauhati HC, which in 2024 issued an order prohibiting the traditional practice.

"The Court observed that buffalo fights in Assam cannot be permitted under the statutory provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, and any subsequent organisation of these events would be in violation of binding judicial precedents," PETA India said in a statement on Tuesday, days after the court issued the interim order.

The court also asked the state government to initiate appropriate penal action against any organisers of such events, until further orders, PETA India said.

SC pulls up UP police over 'hide and seek' with court

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Uttar Pradesh government why its investigating officer was playing "hide and seek" with the court and expressed displeasure over the compliance affidavit filed by the police in a case of an alleged 2021 hate crime in Noida.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta asked Additional Solicitor General KM Nataraj, appearing for Uttar Pradesh, why the police had not added Section 153-B of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) in the case.

Section 153-B of the IPC deals with offences involving imputations and assertions prejudicial to national integration. The court said the law officer had, on February 16, stated before it that from the allegations set out in the complaint, the necessary ingredients of offences punishable under Sections 153-B and 295-A of the IPC were made out and the FIR ought to have been registered.

Section 295-A pertains to deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage the religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs.

The court was hearing a plea seeking a fair investigation and trial on a complaint by a senior citizen, who claimed he was abused and tortured in an alleged hate crime in Noida in July 2021.

Nataraj said the trial court had allowed the police to conduct further investigation in the case and that the police would add the necessary provisions.

Counsel for the petitioner said the apex court had earlier observed that offences under Sections 153-B and 295-A of the IPC should have been included in the FIR.

"Section 153-B has been dropped again," the counsel said.

"Why is your IO playing hide and seek with this court?" the bench asked the state, questioning why Section 153-B had not been added.

Even though Nataraj assured the bench that the police would include Section 153-B, the bench said, "We are not satisfied with the compliance affidavit filed by the respondent."

Lucknow hospital's ban on long hair and beard sparks outrage

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

The dust had barely settled on the Lenskart controversy when a government-owned medical college and hospital issued instructions banning long hair and beards and mandating that women wear a bun.

Lucknow-based Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences, in a directive applicable to outsourced employees, said that a fine of Rs 200 would be imposed on women who did not wear a bun or a hairnet.

Similarly, male employees will have to pay the same fine if they keep a beard or long hair. The order also included monetary penalties for smoking, drinking or sleeping during duty.

The order pertaining to the mandatory wearing of a bun and the ban on long hair has sparked widespread outrage among employees.

One of the employees said that a large number of outsourced staff worked at other institutions such as KG Medical University and the super-speciality Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, but no such restrictions were imposed on them.

The management, however, justified the decision, saying it was intended to ensure discipline and decency in the institution and that there was nothing wrong in banning long hair and beards and making a bun mandatory for women.

According to reports, there were around four thousand employees in the organisation.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

IT SAYS HERE IT MIGHT SNOW LIKE CRAZY THIS WEEK!
OH MY!
DO YOU HAVE ALL YOUR SNOW-SHOVELING CLOTHES READY, JUST IN CASE?
"SNOW-SHOVELING CLOTHES"?
JUST TRYING TO PUT A CUTE SPIN ON THE INEVITABLE, HONEY

Hagar The Horrible

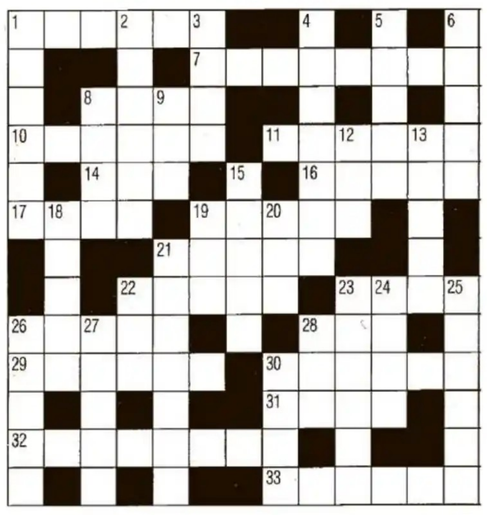
Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

MAYBE, WHEN YOU GET TO BE A FAMOUS BASEBALL PLAYER, CHARLIE BROWN, THEY'LL NAME A CANDY BAR AFTER YOU...
YEAH! WOULDN'T THAT BE GREAT?
I'M VERY FLATTERED THAT YOU SHOULD THINK OF SUCH A THING
IT'LL PROBABLY BE HARD TO UNWRAP AND HAVE CHOCOLATE THAT MELTS ALL OVER YOUR FINGERS

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12400



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 Best titfer? (3,3)
7 It's full of patient customers (8)
8 If wrong, do right (doggedly) (4)
10 A stripper in police history (6)
11 Trouble the medical officer just in case (6)
14 Figure the net return (3)
16 Slide around crabwise? (5)
17 The ship had cast off (4)
19 Made fun pushily? (5)
21 It's not acceptable to be in this (5)
22 A servant to clean your car? (5)
23 The old man's at half pace again (4)
26 Bachelors, I see, are fairly primitive (5)
28 Much reduced fare (3)
29 It's a blow for one MP to go to law (6)
30 Additionally morose? (4,2)
31 As in a Maria Callas recording? (4)
32 Neatly chiselled (5-3)
33 Where to get a new hat at the British centre? (6)

DOWN
1 Playing speeds (6)
2 Shouted when the weather turned nasty? (6)
3 The immortal Mr Heyerdahl (4)
4 Disinclined to have acted as a model after work (7)
5 Horse possibly detested by Ted (5)
6 Glass dish? (5)
8 A good time in the garden? (4)
9 The gardener's little boy (3)
12 Holiday centre providing cover (3)
13 Fall in lumps? (5)
15 People from the ends of the earth? (5)
18 The rent-a-staff man (5)
19 The only friend dad has left? (3)
20 Christopher's outfit? (3)
21 Medical help if you lose heart and cave, in, possibly? (7)
22 The Roman way (3)
23 Small area with a capital hotel (6)
24 District with a real cash shortage (4)
25 Beast having a shot at some duties (6)
26 Tree of painful memories? (5)
27 Seen to have rushed round the capital of Italy (5)
28 Favouring a bit of an effort (3)
30 One man's name for the master race (4)

ACROSS
1 Responds (6)
7 Furthest back (8)
8 Romantic appointment (4)
10 Discriminatory (6)
11 Picture house (6)
14 Blokes (3)
16 Irritates (5)
17 Faucets (4)
19 Cant (5)
21 Loses colour (5)
22 Unit of purity of gold (5)
23 Hairless (4)
26 Happen again (5)
28 Container (3)
29 Stick, hold fast (6)
30 Noiseless (6)
31 Inform (4)
32 Start (8)
33 Teachers (6)

DOWN
1 Hare-like mammal (6)
2 Stops (6)
3 Garden hut (4)
4 Respects highly (7)
5 Wooden peg (5)
6 Book of maps (5)
8 Slightly wet (4)
9 Number (3)
12 Nothing (3)
13 Iron, for example (5)
15 Bravery award (5)
18 Posed a question (5)
19 Drinks counter (3)
20 Animal doctor (3)
21 One who shoes horses (7)
22 Snooker rod (3)
23 Dumdum, for example (6)
24 Cain's brother (4)
25 Discourages (6)
26 American cattle farm (5)
27 Close friends (5)
28 Drawn match (3)
30 Let it stand (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12399

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, Truck 6, H-one-y 9, Halcyon 10, St-ray 11, Sleep 12, Nutty 13, Cricket 15, Tel. 17, An-NE 18, Ignore 19, Seine 20, Clever 22, Igor 24, Hit 25, John-son 26, Pe-t-er 27, L-age-R 28, Wells 29, Russ-Ian 30, Cyrus 31, Stash.
DOWN: 2, Return 3, Chance(llor) 4, Kay 5, Scout 6, Ho.-stage 7, Only 8, Ex-eter 12, N-ewer 13, Cat-Ch. 14, Inlet 15, Ton-G-s 16, Learn 18, In for 19, Sever-US 21, Lit-any 22, Intent 23, O-odles 25, Jesse 26, Peru 28, Was(Ted).

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Delay 6, Sight 9, Neglect 10, Thugs 11, Reams 12, Steam 13, Scorpio 15, Sea 17, Asia 18, Accord 19, Slash 20, Avenue 22, Ever 24, Dad 25, Western 26, Cumin 27, Radar 28, Whist 29, Referee 30, Heaps 31, Tsars.
DOWN: 2, Ethics 3, Angora 4, Yes 5, Pluto 6, Scratch 7, Item 8, Hammer 12, Sidle 13, Salad 14, Oiled 15, Solve 16, Adorn 18, Ashen 19, Sutures 21, Vacate 22, Etches 23, Eraser 25, Widen 26, Carp 28, Wet.

◆SU-DO-KU-6886◆

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						8		
6	7		1	3				4
		8				9		
9				8	7		6	3
		4						
		1		5		4		8
			4		1	7		

hard

7	1	4	8	6	3	9	5	2
8	2	5	9	4	7	3	1	6
6	9	3	1	5	2	4	8	7
3	6	1	5	2	9	8	7	4
2	4	9	7	8	1	6	3	5
5	8	7	4	3	6	1	2	9
9	5	2	3	1	4	7	6	8
4	3	8	6	7	5	2	9	1
1	7	6	2	9	8	5	4	3

SOLUTION TO 6885

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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							RACK 1
A1	L1	A1	A1	Y4	S1	D2	
							RACK 2
S1	A1	L1	I1	C3	L1	C3	Triple Word Score
							RACK 3
I1	I1	G2	O1	G2	Y4	D2	Double Word Score
							RACK 4
R1	N1	K5	N1	I1	I1	A1	

PAR SCORE 40-50
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

F4	U1	S1	I1	O1	N1		RACK 1 = 27
C3	H4	E1	E1	S1	Y4		RACK 2 = 14
M3	I1	L1	I1	E1	U1		RACK 3 = 8
M3	A1	B3	E1	L1	A1	S1	RACK 4 = 62

PAR SCORE 70-80 JUDD'S TOTAL 111

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

BTYBA

DTIAM

MHIOYL

ETDFAE

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Nothing beats the real thing.
The fish want the action of a lure.
WHEN IT CAME TO WHETHER WORMS OR LURES ATTRACT MORE FISH, IT WAS ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

"◯◯-◯◯◯◯-◯◯◯◯◯" (Answers tomorrow)

Yeterday's Jumbles: QUART NINTH WRENCH ENGULF
Answer: The overheated jogger was very happy to come across some — RUNNING WATER

HITORI-3340

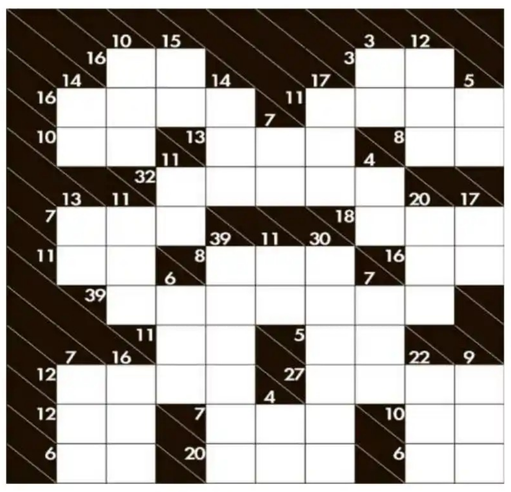
5	7	5	3	2	6	5	6
2	6	7	1	1	8	2	3
6	1	1	4	2	2	3	8
7	3	6	2	4	1	8	5
1	8	2	6	7	2	2	1
4	1	8	2	5	6	2	2
5	2	4	1	3	5	8	7
5	5	1	2	2	4	1	8

SOLUTION TO 3339

■	8	■	2	5	■	6	■
8	5	7	■	1	6	2	3
5	■	2	3	6	8	7	1
■	1	■	5	2	■	4	■
6	3	4	1	■	5	■	2
■	2	■	4	8	1	5	7
3	4	1	8	■	2	■	6
2	■	5	■	7	3	1	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3340



SOLUTION TO 3339

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3893

■		2						■
	5				3		■	1
		■				■		
5			4		■		3	
		6		■		5	8	
			■	9	■	6		
		3		5	1	8		
	■	1		6		3	7	
■						2	1	■

SOLUTION TO 3892

9	3	4	6	2	7	1	5	8
1	2	5	4	3	8	6	7	9
6	7	8	1	9	5	4	3	2
5	6	9	7	8	3	2	4	1
4	1	7	5	6	2	8	9	3
3	8	2	9	1	4	5	6	7
7	9	1	8	5	6	3	2	4
8	5	3	2	4	9	7	1	6
2	4	6	3	7	1	9	8	5

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Japan scraps ban on export of lethal weapons

Major shift in country's post-war pacifist policy

TOKYO, AP/PTI

Japan on Tuesday scrapped a ban on lethal weapons exports, marking a major change in its post-war pacifist policy as the country seeks to build up its arms industry amid concerns over Chinese and North Korean aggression.

The approval by Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's Cabinet of the new guidelines clears a final set of hurdles for arms sales, including Japanese-developed warships, combat drones and other weapons.

China criticised the policy shift, but it has been largely welcomed by Japanese defence partners such as Australia and has attracted interest from Southeast Asia and Europe. Opponents say the move violates Japan's pacifist constitution and could increase global tensions and threaten the safety of its people.

The new policy will "ensure safety for Japan and further contribute to peace and stability in the region and the international community as the security environment around our country rapidly changes," Chief Cabinet Secretary Minoru Kihara told reporters.

"The government will strategically promote defence equipment transfers to create a security environment that is desirable for Japan and to build up the industrial base that can support defence resilience." Japan could start selling weapons such as missiles and destroyers.

Japan has long prohibited most arms exports under its post-World War II pacifist constitution. It has made recent changes due to rising global and regional tensions, but exports were limited to five areas: rescue, transport, early warning, surveillance and minesweeping.

The new guidelines remove those limits and allow the export of equipment such as fighter jets, missiles and destroyers. This marks a major shift from existing exports such as flak jackets, gas masks and civilian-use vehicles sent to Ukraine, and intelligence radars sold to the Philippines. For now, such exports will be limited to 17 countries that have signed defence equipment and technology transfer agreements with Japan.

Japan remains committed to strict screening and export controls to third countries and will not offer lethal weapons to countries at war, officials said, though exceptions could be made.

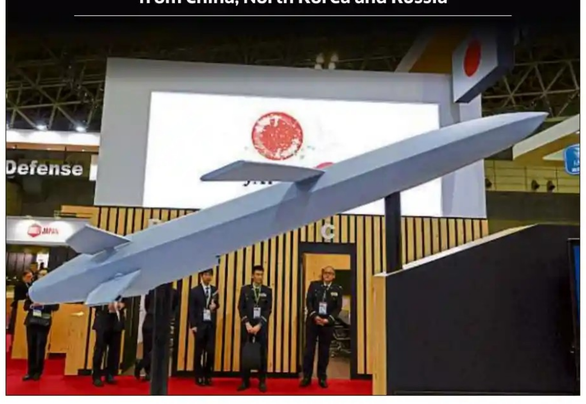
Japan began exporting some non-lethal military supplies in 2014, and in December 2023 it approved a change allowing the sale of dozens of lethal weapons and components manufactured under licences from other countries back to the licensors.

BOOSTING DEFENCE PRODUCTION

Japan's policy shift is aimed at boosting the domestic defence industry

SCOPE
- Exports now allowed: missiles, fighter jets, destroyers
- Limited initially to 17 partner countries
- Government to maintain strict screening and oversight
- Stronger defence ties with allies like Australia, Europe
- Concerns raised over rising regional tensions

SEEING RED: Beijing slams decision as Japan's policy shift is seen as a response to threats from China, North Korea and Russia



Nato intercepts Russian aircraft flying over Baltic Sea

SIAULIAI AIR BASE (LITHUANIA), AP/PTI: Nato intercepted Russian strategic bombers and fighter jets that flew over the Baltic Sea on Monday, a strong display of air power on the alliance's eastern flank away from the spotlight on West Asia.

French Rafale fighters were deployed from a Lithuanian air base where they are stationed as part of a decades-long Nato air-policing effort.

The fighters, armed with air-to-air missiles, joined jets from Sweden, Finland, Poland, Denmark and Romania. They all took to the skies to inspect and keep watch on the Russian flight, the French detachment said.

The Russian mission included two supersonic Tu-22M3s, as well as about 10 fighters – both Su-30s and Su-35s – that took turns escorting the larger strategic bombers, according to the statement.

The Russian Defence Ministry said the long-range bombers' flight was scheduled and occurred in airspace over the neutral waters of the Baltic Sea. The flight took more than four hours, the ministry said on Monday on Telegram.

US forces board sanctioned oil tanker in Indian Ocean

Pentagon says vessel is linked to Iran oil smuggling network

WASHINGTON, AP/PTI

US forces have boarded an oil tanker previously sanctioned for smuggling Iranian crude oil in Asia, the Department of Defense said on Tuesday.

In a social media post, the Pentagon said US forces "conducted a right-of-visit maritime interdiction" and boarded the M/T Tifani "without incident".

It is the latest move in US efforts against Iran to stop ships tied to Tehran, or those suspected of carrying supplies that could aid its government, including weapons, oil, metals and electronics.

The announcement comes hours ahead of the expiry of an already tenuous ceasefire between the US and Iran, and as Pakistan attempts to broker talks between Washington and Tehran. Ship-tracking data showed the Tifani was carrying oil in the Indian Ocean on Tuesday between Sri Lanka and Indonesia. The Pentagon described the Tifani as "stateless", despite it being a Botswana-flagged vessel. The announcement did not specify where or at what time on Tuesday the ship was boarded. "As we have made clear, we will pursue global maritime enforcement efforts to disrupt illicit networks and interdict sanctioned vessels providing material support to Iran — anywhere they operate," the Pentagon said.

Ships and boats are seen in the Strait of Hormuz off the coast of Musandam, Oman, on Monday. REUTERS

Vance's trip to Pak for peace talks on hold, says US official

A US official said Vice President JD Vance's trip to Islamabad for potential ceasefire talks with Iran has been put on hold, but cautioned that President Donald Trump could change his mind, AP/PTI reports from Washington. The official said Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff and son-in-law Jared Kushner were expected in Washington on Tuesday for consultations. The official declined to predict what would happen if the ceasefire expires without a meeting in Islamabad.

Pak successfully test-fires anti-ship weapon system

ISLAMABAD, PTI: The Pakistan Navy successfully test-fired an indigenously developed anti-ship weapon system, the military said on Tuesday. The Taimoor air-launched cruise missile is a "powerful demonstration of precision strike capability and operational readiness", the Inter-Services Public Relations said.

Pak extends its airspace ban on Indian airlines

ISLAMABAD, PTI: Pakistan on Tuesday extended the ban further on Indian aircraft using its airspace for another month.

Pakistan has kept its airspace shut to Indian flights since April 24, 2025, a move that reportedly caused losses of billions of rupees to Indian airlines.

The Pakistan Airports Authority said in a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) that "all Indian-registered, leased, commercial and military aircraft will remain barred from Pakistani airspace until 5 am on May 24, 2026".

The notice was issued days before the previous one was set to expire on April 24.

Pakistan closed its airspace to Indian airlines following tensions after the Pahalgam terror attack, for which New Delhi blamed Islamabad.

Pakistan, however, rejected the allegations and also called for a transparent investigation. In response, India also closed its airspace to Pakistani airlines. This is the first time Pakistan has imposed such restrictions on India.

The ban has hit Indian commercial airlines badly, as they used Pakistani airspace for most of their flights to and from Indian cities, particularly to Gulf countries.

Airspace closures were previously enacted during the 1999 Kargil conflict and the 2019 Pulwama crisis.

AT A GLANCE

Killer of Indian student gets lifer

A court in Toronto has sentenced a man to life imprisonment after rejecting his plea of not being criminally responsible due to a mental disorder in the killing of Indian student Kartik Vasudev, his family said on Tuesday, PTI reports from Toronto/Ghaziabad. The Superior Court of Toronto, presided by Justice Jane Kelly, on Monday found Richard Edwin guilty on two counts of first-degree murder for the killings of two strangers on April 7 and April 9, 2022.

While Edwin admitted to shooting the 21-year-old Vasudev, a resident of Ghaziabad and a student of Seneca College, his defence argued that he should be declared not criminally responsible as he was suffering from a mental disorder and could not distinguish right from wrong. The court acknowledged that Edwin was suffering from schizophrenia at the time of the incident but rejected the NCR plea.

Myanmar rebels reject talks

The leader of Myanmar's military-backed government has invited the country's armed resistance groups to fresh peace talks, state-run newspapers reported on Tuesday, marking the first such call from President Min Aung Hlaing since he took office earlier this month, AP/PTI reports from Bangkok. However, Nay Phone Latt, a spokesperson for the National Unity Government, the main group coordinating opposition to military rule, said that it and the People's Defence Force units under its command would continue to fight alongside other resistance forces until their goals are achieved.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

Biz Bytes

Stock markets climb 1%

MUMBAI, PTI: Stock markets advanced for the third consecutive day on Tuesday, following a drop in crude oil prices and hopes for progress on peace talks between Iran and the United States.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 753.03 points or 0.96% to settle at 79,273.33. During the day, it surged 846.78 points or 1.07% to 79,367.08. The 50-share NSE Nifty climbed 211.75 points or 0.87% to end at 24,576.60.

The rupee declined 28 paise to close at 93.44 against the US dollar on Tuesday, weighed down by a steady American currency and volatile crude prices amid uncertainties.

Mphasis buys Canada's TAP for Rs 68 cr

BENGALURU, DHNS: Mphasis on Tuesday announced its acquisition of Theory and Practice Business Intelligence Inc (TAP) for upfront consideration of CAD 10 million (about Rs 68.45 crore) at closing, with management milestone-based, multi-year contingent consideration of up to CAD 20 million.

TAP is a technology company that developed Continuum AI, a Decision Intelligence platform, that combines AI with behavioural economics to improve business decision-making and understanding buyer behaviour. Established in 2018, with its headquarters in Vancouver, Canada, TAP guides leading enterprises in Financial Services, Retail and Consumer Packaged Goods (CPG) to turn their data into decisions.

At the Helm of Apple

Steve Jobs	April 1, 1976 ■ Co-founds Apple Computer Company	1985 ■ Resigns from Apple Computer	1997 ■ Returns to Apple	2000-2011 ■ CEO of Apple Inc
Tim Cook	2011-present ■ CEO of Apple Inc	2026 ■ To take over as Executive Chairman		
John Ternus	2021-present ■ Senior VP, Hardware Engineering	Sept 1, 2026 ■ To take over as CEO of Apple Inc		

Apple's CEO to hand reins to deputy after record-setting run

Cook to transition to executive chairman; Ternus a strong believer in AI

BLOOMBERG

Apple Inc Chief Executive Officer Tim Cook will hand the reins to hardware boss John Ternus later this year, capping a 15-year tenure that turned the company into a business worth $4 trillion that spans watches, video streaming and financial services.

Ternus will become CEO on September 1, when Cook will transition to executive chairman, the company said on Monday. Ternus, 50, has served as head of hardware engineering since 2021 and spent 25 years focused on product development at the iPhone maker. Bloomberg News previously reported that Ternus was Cook's heir apparent.

The hardware engineering division will be taken over by longtime deputy Tom Marieb, sources said.

Ternus must now chart a new path for one of Silicon Valley's most-storied businesses at a challenging moment. Though Apple's growth remains strong, the company has struggled to catch up in AI.

"John Ternus has the mind of an engineer, the soul of an innovator, and the heart to lead with integrity and with honour," Cook said. "He is a visionary whose contributions to Apple over 25 years are already too numerous to count, and he is without question the right person to lead Apple into the future."

Apple's John Ternus (left) with Tim Cook.

The announcement comes just weeks after the company's 50th anniversary celebration.

Ternus is a "Tim Jr" in style and he's likely going to "continue to run the show the way Tim did", said an executive, adding that Ternus isn't a Steve Jobs-like showman. "He's not a marketing ace. But he's a product guy who is also politically-savvy."

Investors largely took the announcement in stride. After dipping nearly 2% in late trading, the shares pared their losses. They were down less than 0.5% to $271.70 by Monday evening in New York.

Apple shares have gained roughly 2000% since Cook took the CEO job in August 2011.

In the new role, Cook will be engaging with policymakers around the world, Apple said. The 65-year-old CEO already oversees Apple's relationship with US President Donald Trump and often travels to China to manage the company's ties with that country. As part of the transition, longtime Chairman Art Levinson will become lead independent director.

When he steps down as CEO, Cook will have served a record 15 years in the position. Over that span, he helped build on the success of the Mac and iPhone by pushing into health services, smartwatches and earbuds. Annual sales almost quadrupled to $416 billion last fiscal, and Apple now touts an active installed base of more than 2.5 billion devices. During the Cook era, the company introduced larger iPhones, new iPads, and Apple Music and Apple TV.

Cook's tenure also was mired by misfires in AI. OpenAI, Anthropic PBC, Google and others have launched world-changing AI products, while Apple has largely sat on the sidelines.

Ternus is a strong believer in AI and reorganised the hardware engineering division this month to operate with a new AI platform designed to help with product development and improving device quality, according to sources.

HCLTech logs Q4 net profit of 4%

Performance below par due to softness in parts of its business

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Amid uncertainty and geo-political headwinds, IT services firm HCLTech on Tuesday posted a 4.2% increase in consolidated net profit for the quarter ended March 2026 at Rs 4,488 crore, compared to Rs 4,307 crore in the year-ago period. For the full fiscal, the company's net profit stood at Rs 16,642 crore, a 4.30% decline, compared to Rs 17,390 crore in FY25.

The company's revenue from operations in the fourth quarter stood at Rs 33,981 crore, up 12.34%, compared to Rs 30,246 crore in the year-ago period. For the full fiscal 2026, the company's revenue from operations stood at Rs 1,30,144 crore, up 11%, compared to Rs 1,17,055 crore in FY25. In Q4, the company's EBIT margin excluding restructuring stood at 17.7%.

It expects revenue growth guidance to be between 1% and 4% YoY in constant currency (CC) in FY27, and services revenue growth between 1.5% and 4.5% YoY in CC. It expects EBIT margin to be between 17.5% and 18.5% in FY27.

Earnings Highlights
HCLTech

The company expects revenue growth guidance to be between **1%** and **4%** YoY in CC in **FY27**

Net profit Rs 4,488 cr up **4.2%** YoY	**Revenue** Rs 33,981 cr up **12.3%** YoY
TCV (New Deal wins) $1,936 mn	**EBIT Margin** excl. restructuring at 17.7%
Headcount at 2,27,181 Added **1,712** (freshers)	Net addition in Q4: **802** LTM attrition: **12.5%**, (down from **13%** in Q4 of last yr)

"Our #1 priority in FY27 is to ensure the company is positioned right to take advantage of AI opportunities for multi-decade value creation."
C Vijayakumar
CEO & MD, HCLTech

HCLTech CEO and MD C Vijayakumar said the momentum around AI remains strong. He stated that client behaviour was focused on cost optimisation, along with accelerated adoption of AI-driven productivity. "Our ambition is to be the best AI solutions firm," he said.

Talking about West Asia's impact on business, the CEO said the company's exposure to the region is small, and that they did see some impact in the software business in the quarter, and did not see any impact in the services business.

The firm's total contract value (new deal wins) in the fourth quarter stood at $1,936 million, and its advanced AI revenue stood at $155 million, up 6.1% sequentially.

During the quarter, the company's performance came below expectations due to softness in certain parts of its business, owing to lower discretionary spend and delayed decision-making.

Karnataka prefers blue-chip assets

BENGALURU, DHNS

In the first quarter of 2026, the country's crypto ecosystem continued to mature, and Karnataka demonstrated the highest conviction in blue-chip assets. Crypto investing and trading platform CoinSwitch, in its latest report 'India's Crypto Portfolio: How India Invests', highlighted that with 32%, Karnataka leads with the highest blue-chip allocation among all states. Its portfolios reflect a stability-first approach, with balanced exposure across large, mid-cap, and small-cap companies, the report said.

With Bengaluru contributing 68.4%, activity remains heavily concentrated in its tech-driven ecosystem. With 9.2%, Bitcoin remained the most-invested asset, while also dominating trading activity at 17.4%. Alongside Bitcoin, meme coins such as Dogecoin (6.0%) and Shiba Inu (4.4%) continue to feature prominently in Indian portfolios.

The report said across states, portfolios show a balanced mix of blue-chip, large-, mid-, and small-cap assets, signalling a shift from hype-driven investing to more thoughtful allocation strategies this quarter. While people in the age group of 26-35 dominate at 48%, the fastest growth this quarter came from the 35+ segment, driven by Gen X and older millennials entering the market.

10 TEAMS 13 VENUES 58 DAYS 74 MATCHES

"I realised that the kind of talent Tilak has, he really doesn't have to worry. So my message to him was just watch the ball and hit the ball. Was about time he came out and delivered.

HARDIK PANDYA, MI SKIPPER

Tilak Varma

Hitting straight got success for centurion Tilak

AHMEDABAD, PTI: Tilak Varma credited his match-winning century to "adapting to conditions" and expressed confidence that Mumbai Indians can be "unstoppable" from now on if they execute well, given the number of World Cup winners in their squad.

Tilak's explosive 101 not out powered MI to a commanding 99-run win over Gujarat Titans in Ahmedabad, ending their four-match losing streak in IPL 2026.

"It was very important for the team and for me," Tilak, who has been struggling for form in this season, told JioHotstar.

"Over the last four or five games, the one thing constantly running through my head was that I hadn't spent much time in the middle and hadn't faced many balls, so my aim was to spend some time at the wicket and then adapt according to the team's situation."

Speaking about his approach, Tilak said he assessed the pitch early and focused on straight hitting.

"Whenever MI comes to Ahmedabad, they usually give us a black-soil wicket, which is a bit slow in nature. It's not that our batters cannot adapt, but we know what we can do if there is more bounce," he said.

"I decided to hit straighter, and I read the conditions well."

Ton-up Abhishek singes Delhi

Opener sizzles with 68-ball 135 n.o. in SRH's 47-run victory over DC

HYDERABAD, PTI

Sunrisers Hyderabad's Abhishek Sharma drives one to the fence during his blistering century against Delhi Capitals at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad on Tuesday. PTI

Abhishek Sharma butchered a listless Delhi Capitals into submission with a brilliant 68-ball 135 not out as Sunrisers Hyderabad cantered to an easy 47-run victory in an IPL match here on Tuesday.

On a placid Uppal track, Abhishek scythed through Delhi bowling attack with 10 sixes and as many boundaries in Sunrisers' mammoth score of 242 for 2.

The chase was out of question but Sri Lankan Eshan Malinga (4/32 in 4 overs) and Sakib Hussain (1/29 in 4 overs) scripted a middle-order collapse with DC reduced to 107 for 4 from a comfortable 107 for 1. DC never recovered from thereon.

In the end, Axar Patel's men managed only 195 for 9 to lose the game comprehensively as SRH consolidated their position in the points table moving up to third place.

SCOREBOARD

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD: Abhishek Sharma (not out) 135, Travis Head c Rizvi b Patel 37, Ishan Kishan (run out) 25, Heinrich Klaasen (not out) 37. Extras: (W 8) 8. **TOTAL (for 2 wkts, in 20 overs) 242.**

Fall of wickets: 1-97, 2-176.

Bowling: Mukesh Kumar 4-0-53-0, Nitish Rana 4-0-55-0, Lungi Ngidi 4-0-41-0, Axar Patel 2-0-23-1, Kuldeep Yadav 2-0-30-0, T Natarajan 4-0-40-0.

DELHI CAPITALS: Pathum Nissanka c sub (Livingstone) b Madushanka 8, KL Rahul c Abhishek b Sakib 37, Nitish Rana c Abhishek b Malinga 57, Sameer Rizvi c Madushanka b Dubey 41, David Miller b Malinga 0, Tristan Stubbs c Sakib b Malinga 27, Ashutosh Sharma c Verma b Malinga 14, Axar Patel c Nitish b Dubey 2, Kuldeep Yadav (not out) 1, Lungi Ngidi c Madushanka b Dubey 0. Extras: (LB-1 W-7) 8. **TOTAL (for 9 wkts in 20 overs) 195.**

Fall of wickets: 1-21, 2-107, 3-107, 4-107, 5-166, 6-186, 7-192, 8-195, 9-195. **Bowling:** Dilshan Madushanka 4-0-36-1, Nitish Kumar Reddy 4-0-57-0, Eshan Malinga 4-0-32-4, Sakib Hussain 4-0-29-1, Shivang Kumar 2-0-28-0, Harsh Dubey 2-0-12-3. **Result:** SRH won by 47 runs.

PoM: Abhishek Sharma.

The match will be remembered for some serious tactical mistakes made by the DC 'Brains Bank' comprising Director of Cricket Venugopal Rao, head coach Hemang Badani and skipper Axar.

Using a part-time off-spinner Nitish Rana's (0/55 in 4 overs) full quota simply because the top three of SRH consists of southpaws beggared belief.

Equally baffling was frontline spinners Axar (1/23 in 2 overs) and Kuldeep Yadav (0/30 in 2 overs) only bowled half their quota of overs trying to escape the onslaught from Abhishek.

Three pacers Mukesh Kumar (0/53), Lungi Ngidi (0/44) and T Natarajan (0/40) were also rendered ineffective.

On the other hand, SRH pacers led by Malinga and Hussain used clever variations of pace-on and pace-off deliveries to get wickets at regular intervals save Rana's half-century which was pale in comparison to Abhishek's innings.

Even with a relatively off-colour Travis Head (37 off 26 balls), Abhishek added 97 for the opening stand. Then, skipper Ishan Kishan (25 off 13 balls) joined the party, adding another 79 runs for the second wicket in just 5.5 overs to create a beautiful launchpad for the final assault.

Towards the end as Abhishek seemed a bit tired as strike-rate dropped a touch below 200, Heinrich Klaasen chanced his arms to hit a quickfire 37 not out off 13 balls.

Delhi Capitals' ploy of starting with an off-spinner, that too a mediocre part-timer like Rana backfired badly as he was given four overs in which he was hit for half a dozen sixes -- all off left-handed batters.

The DC coaching staff headlined by Venugopal, Badani have not been at their tactical best throughout the tournament and Tuesday was one such occasion.

RR seek fix after two straight losses

Middle-order a concern as they take on LSG

LUCKNOW, PTI

Rajasthan's out-of-sorts skipper Riyan Parag really needs to fire soon. PTI

LIVE 7:30 PM

The form of the middle order, particularly that of skipper Riyan Parag, will be a key concern as Rajasthan Royals look to arrest a slide after back-to-back defeats when they take on a struggling Lucknow Super Giants in an IPL match, here on Wednesday.

Placed third in the points table, the inaugural edition champions began their campaign with four successive wins but have since faltered in their last two outings.

They suffered a 57-run defeat to Sunrisers Hyderabad after collapsing dramatically, losing five wickets for nine runs against pace.

In their previous match against Kolkata Knight Riders, RR let a strong position slip as Rinku Singh engineered a stunning turnaround to hand KKR their first win in seven matches this season. As for Parag, a surprise choice as their skipper after Sanju Samon's exit, has endured a pathetic run with the bat, registering three single-digit scores in six innings with a highest of just 20 so far.

The top-three, in Yashasvi Jaiswal, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi and Dhruv Jurel, has been RR's main force with the bat this season, but the side has often struggled when they fail.

While Parag is woefully out of touch, veteran Ravindra Jadeja has looked a shadow of his past self, while Guyanese big-hitter Shimron Hetmyer (39 runs from four innings) is yet to fire.

POINTS TABLE

Team	Played	Won	Lost	NR	Pts	NRR
Punjab Kings	6	5	0	1	11	1.420
Royal Challengers	6	4	2	0	8	1.171
Sunrisers Hyderabad	7	4	3	0	8	0.820
Rajasthan Royals	6	4	2	0	8	0.599
Delhi Capitals	6	3	3	0	6	-0.130
Gujarat Titans	6	3	3	0	6	-0.821
Mumbai Indians	6	2	4	0	4	0.067
Chennai Super Kings	6	2	4	0	4	-0.780
Lucknow Super Giants	6	2	4	0	4	-1.173
Kolkata Knight Riders	7	1	5	1	3	-0.879

IPL BRIEF

CSK's Mhatre ruled out of IPL

Chennai Super Kings batter Ayush Mhatre has been ruled out of the remainder of the ongoing IPL season due to a hamstring injury, dealing a major blow to the five-time champions, reports PTI from New Delhi.

The franchise said Mhatre, who sustained the injury during CSK's previous game against Sunrisers Hyderabad on April 18, will require a rehabilitation period of six to 12 weeks.

World volleyball body revokes recognition of VFI

NEW DELHI, PTI: World volleyball body FIVB on Tuesday revoked Volleyball Federation of India's recognition with immediate effect for breach of "legal and administrative requirements", days after two senior players quit the national camp over "poor and unscientific facilities" and "politics" in selection.

The FIVB constituted a steering committee made up of representatives from the world body and the Indian Olympic Association to safeguard the sport in the country and look after athlete welfare.

The FIVB said the welfare and support of athletes remains its top priority.

Skyfall: Surya's slump opens a window of opportunity for Shreyas

MADHU JAWALI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Shreyas Iyer's (left) success with Punjab Kings has brought him in conversation for India's T20 captaincy as incumbent Suryakumar Yadav's slump in form continues. PTI

As Suryakumar Yadav's fortunes dip as sharply as a panic-stricken bear market, two names are being seriously discussed as his potential replacements in India's T20 squad: Rajat Patidar, the Royal Challengers Bengaluru skipper, and Shreyas Iyer, his counterpart at Punjab Kings. Both are scoring heavily, striking even more impressively, and their teams currently occupy the top two spots in the ongoing Indian Premier League.

It's interesting that Shreyas and Patidar are in conversation and not Test and ODI skipper Shubman Gill, who lost his T20 place just ahead of the T20 World Cup at the start of the year, despite sitting in the second position in the most run-makers list with 265 runs in this Indian Premier League. One of the main reasons could be that Gill opens the innings while Shreyas and Patidar bat at No. 4, a position Suryakumar has occupied most often for India. But Shreyas' proven international career, across formats, gives him a clear edge.

Suryakumar has endured a prolonged slump in form stretching back to the T20 World Cup. In nine matches in the marquee ICC event, he managed only 177 runs at a strike rate of 136.72, well below his career mark of 162.94. After a sublime unbeaten 84 n.o. that helped India avoid an embarrassing loss to the USA in the tournament opener in Mumbai, the 35-year-old scored just 93 runs across his next eight innings. India's triumphant campaign masked his struggles, but the poor form has continued into the IPL, where his scores read 16, 51, 6, 33, 0 and 15.

While Suryakumar struggles to regain his mojo, Shreyas has been making all the right noises. He is batting like a dream and his captaincy style has come in for high praise. Affectionately referred to as the Sarpanch (village head) in PBKS camp for his tough love towards his team-mates, Shreyas' leadership credentials need no certificate. He led PBKS to the final last year after guiding Kolkata Knight Riders to their third title in 2024. Surprisingly, the Kolkata franchise, in their infinite wisdom, decided to release the right-hander ahead of the 2025 season. And that has proven to be PBKS' gain and KKR's unmitigated loss.

Suryakumar, the only other batter to earn the sobriquet 360 degrees for his range of strokes, isn't a finished chapter in Indian cricket yet. He is a match winner on his day, but past glory and occasional flashes of brilliance aren't good enough to sustain your place in a national team that is teeming with outrageous talent with an equally capable bunch waiting on the fringes.

Suryakumar needs to string together a good set of scores to retain the confidence of selectors, who haven't shied away from taking tough calls in recent times. Suryakumar would be well aware of that as he was appointed the T20 captain, ahead of Hardik Pandya after Rohit Sharma's retirement from the format. And then, under his captaincy, he saw Gill, his designated deputy, being eased out of India's T20 squad after a few low scores.

India's next T20 assignment is in June when they visit Ireland (two T20Is) and England (three T20Is), so Suryakumar perhaps has only the remainder of IPL to justify his continuance in the Indian team. The assessment may seem a bit of a stretch considering the fact that he successfully helped India defend the T20 WC title, but recent decisions by the selection panel indicate a clear lack of sentimentality. The Test retirements of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma are other examples of its approach.

Also, IPL is as good a platform as any to judge a players' utility to the national team. After all, Suryakumar broke into the Indian team based on his IPL exploits.

IPL and its desperate need to finish games on time

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

The match between Mumbai Indians and Royal Challengers Bengaluru at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai lasted beyond a whopping four hours. PTI FILE PHOTO

No cricket tournament has grabbed as much attention as the Indian Premier League since its inception back in 2008. The event has turned into a commercial giant and the matches have grown from 59 games with eight teams to 74 between 10.

The crowd-pulling and the coffer-filling T20 league may be fast-paced in nature but in essence has had to answer questions regarding its slow over-rates and matches running well beyond the stipulated time of three hours and 20 minutes for a while now.

"It is becoming an issue, surely," a former BCCI umpire told *DH* on condition of anonymity.

"Every ball has become crucial these days. The number of runs being scored in the final stages of each innings and the time taken by captains to adjust their fields almost every ball has not helped the cause," he adds.

The playing conditions of the IPL suggest that an innings (20 overs) should be completed within 90 minutes at 4.25 minutes per over, including the two 2.5-minute strategic time-outs.

For instance, match No. 20 this season between the Mumbai Indians and the Royal Challengers Bengaluru at the Wankhede Stadium on April 12 stretched to four hours and 21 minutes. The game, which got underway at 7:30 pm, ended at 11:51 pm. That's a whopping 81 minutes more than the 200 minutes that a game should be wrapped up.

While the captains have been fined and also penalised with match bans in the past, they seem to have had little impact.

"Rs 12 lakh, Rs 24 lakh, where is the limit? Even if they are a ball short, they are asked to pay the fine. And if it happens again with the same team, it is doubled the next time," the former IPL official added.

"But the franchises want results and they are willing to pay these fines. Until the franchises also see the bigger picture, not much will change. But then, money is involved. So there is only so much umpires can do."

The IPL abandoned the one-match suspension rule for captains following three over-rate offences in a season and brought in field restrictions, where a fielder is called inside the 30-yard circle if the team is behind schedule.

The governing council also has introduced demerit points system. For example, a fine of 25% of the match fee will fetch one demerit point.

"India is a superstar culture country and money does play a part. Broadcasters want more interruptions as well. Because they get money as they get to insert more ads. Players, franchises, administration, umpires, everybody should work in a tandem. It should be a collective effort," another BCCI umpire said.

Marylebone Cricket Club's Fraser Stewart, who was at the MI-RCB fixture, was not very pleased with the pace of the game and urged umpires were soft on the players with no sense of urgency.

In the aforementioned game between MI and RCB, Bengaluru's Rasikh Dar called for on-field treatment three times in an over even as umpires stood watching instead of asking the bowler leave the field.

"I feel it is about opinions. There is only so much umpires can do. What normally happens is that the third umpire, along with the match referees, would be noting down every stoppage time and if they feel the slightest of delays, they guide the on-field umpires to get on with the game."

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

IPL: Lucknow Super Giants vs Rajasthan Royals **(7:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

3rd WT20: South Africa vs India **(9:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

FOOTBALL

EPL: Burnley vs Man City, Bournemouth vs Leeds **(12:30 am, Thursday)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network.**

La Liga: Elche vs Atletico Madrid **(10:30 pm)**, Real Sociedad vs Getafe **(11:30 pm)**, Barcelona vs Celta Vigo **(1 am, Thursday)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

Shiva wins World juniors gold, Panaah bags silver

CAIRO, PTI: Leading Indian shooter Shiva Narwal marked his return to the global stage after a long hiatus by clinching gold in the men's 10m air pistol event at the ISSF Junior World Cup (Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun) while Chirag Sharma added to the tally by securing bronze in the same event, here on Tuesday.

In addition to the double podium on the opening day, Panaah Bhugra fetched the silver in the women's 10m air rifle, taking India's tally to three medals across all colours.

Panaah Bhugra

Narwal continued his form from the qualification to claim gold with a score of 241.8, finishing 1.8 ahead of Uzbekistan's Sodikjon Abdullaev, who secured silver. Chirag completed the podium with 218.9, while Abhinav Deshwal, the third Indian in the final, finished seventh with 136.7.

In qualification, Narwal qualified in top spot with a score of 576, followed by Abhinav in third place with a score of 576 and Chirag who qualified in fourth place, shooting 575.

In the junior women's 10m air rifle event, Panaah Bhugra, who qualified for the finals with a score of 629.4, maintained her place in the medal positions from the first series and showcased consistency to eventually clinch the silver medal with a final score of 250.6.

Shivaraj, Usman shine in Young Lions victory

BENGALURU, DHNS

LOCAL CRICKET

Shivaraj R scored a century in Young Lions Club's 165-run victory over Malleswaram Gymkhana in the KSCA U-16 Inter-club tournament here.

Shivaraj's 92-ball 125 took Young Lions to 285 all out in 46.5 overs despite Tanay Jabin's impressive returns of 5/47.

Usman Shareef's 5/40 packed Malleswaram to a 120 all out in 32.2 overs.

Brief scores: Young Lions Club: 285 all out in 46.5 overs (Shivaraj R 125, Deekshith Gowda HD 33; Tanay Jabin 5-47, C V D Karthik 2-45) bt Malleswaram Gymkhana: 120 all out in 32.2 overs (Aryamohan K 37; Usman Shareef 5-40, Arjun Bharadwaj T 2-33).

Bangalore Star: 305/8 in 49 overs (Suhas M 100, Karmanye Puri 93, Hridhaanreet Singh Wazir 28; Samarth A Warad 3-50, Abhay Chavan 2-60) bt Cavaliers CC: 105 all out in 24.2 overs (Yashas Adiga 26; Hridhaanreet Singh Wazir 5-34, V Vedhanth 4-8).

Visweswarampuram CC (2): 121 all out in 29.5 overs (Dakshath A Gowda 33, Samar Veer Vinod 31; Parinith K 5-17, Aarav Singh 2-8) lt to Vultures CC: 122/2 in 17 overs (Anirudh M Bangera 39, Aaryan Nagesh 69 n.o.; Pradyumna Boyapati 2-27).

South End SC: 143 all out in 32.3 overs (Yelavalli Umar Ahil 39; Haadi Khan Suryani 4-54, Lukesh D 3-23) lt to Modern CC: 144/2 in 23.4 overs (Den Nachappa KB 57, Aarin Sen 28, Suriyha M 40 n.o.).

Vijaya CC: 272/9 in 50 overs (Panshul Sharma 101, Ahaan Dash 51, Yuvaan Porwal 31; Bhuvan Gowda C 4-36, Vedanth Vedanarayanan 2-60) bt Century Cricketers: 92 all out in 29 overs (Vedanth Vedanarayanan 31; Yuvaan Porwal 4-24, Prayag Bijesh 3-4, Khrishay Reddy 2-22).

Jolly Cricketers: 110 all out in 37.4 overs (Yathin R Gowda 42; Siddharth Kona 5-17, Vivaan Balani 4-29) lt to Visweswarapuram CC (1): 113/0 in 7.4 overs (Sanjit Sathish 53 n.o., Advay Choudhary 54 n.o.).

Swastic Union CC (2): 236 all out in 49.4 overs (Hannan Zaki Ahmad 79, Bryan Thomas 62, Siddhanth Hiremath 33; Shravanth Gowda A 4-50, Aaryansinh Chavda 2-48, Rohan R Gowda 2-28) bt Friends Union CC (1): 130 all out in 36.4 overs (Aaryansinh Chavda 47; Vivek Seervi 2-19, Ashith Sanjay Girish 2-22, Krishna Sreekar J S 2-38, Reyes Raj Madhusudhan 2-4).

Dooravani Cricketers (1): 183/9 in 50 overs (Ayaan Waheed Mohammad 55, Sampath Kumar M 36, Datta Samrudh S 25; Aadyanth 3-30, Atharv Vilas Kabugade 2-35) lt to Blue Diamond Cricketers: 184/4 in 35.3 overs (Tambrahalli Samanyu 64, Chetas H 56 n.o., Nischal M Gowda 35; Raghavan Krishnakumar 2-44).

Vijaya CC, Malur: 125 all out in 47.1 overs (Abhaychandra Kallapura 48; Tanish Bennuri 2-30) lt to Spartons SC: 127/0 in 16.3 overs (Ryan Tomar 54 n.o., Vastvik Sharma 62 n.o.).

IN BRIEF

Yashaswini rewarded

▸ Paddler Yashaswini Ghorpade, the new women's singles India no. 1, was rewarded by GS Ravi and Vinay Chandra - former Karnataka table tennis players and now the co-owners of Chennai Lions, a franchise in the Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) - on Tuesday, reports DHNS.

The Bengaluru girl was presented with a cheque of Rs 2.5 lakhs and equipment worth Rs 80,000 for her recent achivements.

Sonam, Arti steer Parikrma

▸ Sonam Datta and Arti Munda were in fine form as they scored a brace each to power Parikrma FC to a 5-1 victory over Sree Renuka FC in the KSFA A Division Women's League Championships at the Bangalore Football Stadium on Tuesday, reports DHNS.

Results: Parikrma FC: 5 (Jamuna 1st, Sonam Datta 6th, 58th, Arti Munda 34th, 70+3rd) bt Sree Renuka FC: 1 (Sakshi Ganesh Chitagi 14th); Kemp Juniors: 1 (T Steffi 48th) bt Pass FC Sparks: 0.

Siddhanth stars for Bombers

▸ A hat-trick by Siddhanth proved decisive in Bombers HC's 4-2 victory over East India HC in the league phases of the KSHA 'A' Division Hockey League Championship on Tuesday.

Result: Bombers: 4 (Siddanth 28th, 33rd, 37th, Naeem 48th) bt East India: Arun N 40th, Kaif 42nd).

Sub-jr b'ball from April 24

▸ The Karnataka State Basketball Association will be hosting the State Sub Junior Basketball Championships from April 24 at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium, reports DHNS.

The tournament will be played in league cum super league basis and will include rural categories too, whose matches will be played at the Devanga Union Courts.

Sony bags Asian Games rights

▸ Sony Pictures Networks India has secured the exclusive broadcast rights for the 20th Asian Games Aichi-Nagoya 2026, scheduled to be held in Japan from September 19-October 4, reports PTI from New Delhi.

Delhi HC holds HI secretary guilty of contempt

NEW DELHI, PTI

The Delhi High Court has held Hockey India secretary general Bhola Nath Singh guilty of contempt of court for wilfully disobeying its order.

Justice Purushaindra Kumar Kaurav said he would hear the issue of sentence on May 4 but granted Singh liberty to "purge" the contempt by undertaking "such measures as found fit."

The court passed the judgement on April 20 on a contempt plea by Syeed Asima Ali, the elected Vice President of Hockey India, who alleged non-compliance with an order passed on January 17, 2025, by the sports body's officials.

The court stated that as per its directions, Hockey India officials were required to give requisite links to the petitioner to enable her to participate in all executive board meetings but they failed to do so for meetings held on July 4, 2025 and July 27, 2025.

It observed that any purported subsequent events did not excuse the officials from their obligation to provide links to the petitioner, when they had not even sought modification of the direction.

Bhola Nath Singh

"No endeavour has ever been made to purge the contempt. The minutes of the meeting, links for which were not provided to the petitioner, still stares at the face of the Court's subsisting directions.

"There was not even a whisper of an apology, let alone an unconditional apology. Even otherwise, also, an unconditional apology, unlike the holy water from the Ganges, cannot purify the respondents, specifically Mr. Bhola Nath Singh, of his conscious, concerted, deliberate and willful disobedience of the Court's directions," the court stated in the judgement.

It held that the manner in which Hockey India and Singh conducted himself through the course of the present proceedings amounted to a clear case of contempt of court.

Stating that non-compliance of court orders by a National Sports Federation, which functions under the aegis of and receives funds from the State, was no less than an administrative sin, the court concluded, "This Court finds the respondents, and specifically Mr. Bhola Nath Singh, Secretary General of Hockey India, guilty of committing contempt of Court, by willfully disobeying/not complying with the order dated 17.01.2025".

The order of January 17, 2025 was passed on a petition by Ali for the removal of Singh from the post of secretary general of Hockey India.

It was alleged that Singh is ineligible to hold any elected office in Hockey India owing to the tenure and age restrictions enumerated in the Sports Code.

As an interim direction, the court asked Hockey India officials to provide the requisite links to the petitioner to enable her to participate in all executive board meetings.

Alcaraz uncertain about FO

Defending champ could miss Slam as he is yet to recover from wrist injury

MADRID, AFP

French Open champion Carlos Alcaraz insisted on Monday he would rather miss defending the Roland Garros title in May rather than rush treatment on a "serious" wrist injury.

The 22-year-old Spanish star pulled out of the Barcelona clay-court tournament last week when he felt his wrist "give out on a return" and then revealed the injury to be "a more serious injury than any of us expected".

He then pulled out of the Madrid Open on Friday, casting doubt on his participation in Paris as of May 18.

On Monday that doubt deepened when he told press at the Laureus award ceremony he was taking a long-term view.

Carlos Alcaraz poses with the Laureus World Sportsman of the Year Award. The Spaniard can be seen with a cast on his right hand as he recovers from a wrist injury. AFP

"I'd rather come back a little later but in great shape than come back early, rushing around, and unwell."

"God willing, I have a very long career ahead of me, many years, and pushing myself too hard at this Roland Garros could seriously harm me in future tournaments," he said Monday.

Alcaraz, Sabalenka best

Tennis ruled the red carpet in Madrid on Monday as Aryna Sabalenka and Carlos Alcaraz were crowned Sportswoman and Sportsman of the Year at the Laureus Awards.

The pair were honoured after glittering 2025 campaigns that saw them finish atop the women's and men's tennis rankings respectively.

Spaniard Alcaraz, 22, reclaimed the year-end world number one spot after capturing two Grand Slam titles at the French Open and US Open, underlining his supremacy across surfaces.

Winners: World Sportsman of the Year Award: Carlos Alcaraz; **World Sportswoman of the Year Award:** Aryna Sabalenka; **World Team of the Year Award:** Paris St Germain; **World Breakthrough of the Year Award:** Lando Norris; **World Comeback of the Year Award:** Rory McIlroy; **World Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability Award:** Gabriel Araujo; **World Action Sportsperson of the Year Award:** Chloe Kim World Young; **Sportsperson of the Year Award:** Lamine Yamal; **Laureus Sporting Inspiration Award:** Toni Kroos; **Laureus Lifetime Achievement Award:** Nadia Comaneci; **Laureus Sport for Good Award:** Futbol Mas

West Ham draw with Palace confirms Wolves' relegation

LONDON, AFP: West Ham's 0-0 draw against Crystal Palace on Monday condemned Wolves to relegation from the Premier League and boosted their own survival bid to leave struggling Tottenham deeper in trouble.

Bottom of the table Wolves have long been destined for the drop and their descent into the Championship was confirmed by the stalemate at Selhurst Park.

Wolves are now 16 points behind fourth-bottom West Ham, with a maximum of 15 available from their last five matches.

After eight seasons in the top-flight, Wolves succumbed tamely, winning just three of their 33 league matches to date this term.

Despite notable recent wins against Aston Villa and Liverpool, Wolves have looked relegation certainties for months and their eight-year stay in the Premier League is coming to an end.

Vitor Pereira, now in charge of Nottingham Forest, started the season in charge of the Molineux club but the Portuguese coach was sacked in early November after a terrible start to the campaign.

Ismaila Sarr

Former Middlesbrough boss Edwards was brought in but he had an almost impossible task and has been unable to work a miracle.

Second-bottom Burnley look certain to join Wolves in the second tier next season.

They will be relegated if they lose against title-chasing Manchester City on Wednesday.

Result: Crystal Palace: 0 drew with West Ham: 0.

Sandilya, Nidi pack off seeds to advance

BENGALURU, DHNS: Upset wins by Sandilya P and Nidi Burial Srinivas in the men's and women's pre-quarterfinals respectively, marked the second day of the 4th edition of the TNR Memorial AITA Rs. 1 lakh prize money tennis tournament at the Topspin Tennis Academy in Bengaluru on Tuesday.

Sandilya eased past fifth seed Nithilan K 6-0, 6-3 to enter the men's singles quarterfinals. In the women's section, Nidi stunned the third seed Bharathiyana Babu 4-6, 7-6 (0), 6-4 and made it to the last eight.

Results (pre-quarterfinal): Singles: Men: Prakash Sarran bt KS Kavin Karthik 6-3, 6-4; Vishal Vasudev bt Hitesh Y 4-6, 6-1, 6-3; Gandharv Gourav bt Hasan Md 6-3, 6-1; Soma Suhas bt Kandhavel Mahalingam 6-4, 6-1; Manish Ganesh bt GP Balasurya 6-1, 3-0 (rtd); Aadhitya SM bt Pranav Mahesh 4-6, 6-3, 6-1; Sandilya P bt 5-Nithilan K 6-0, 6-3; A Deepak bt Likith Gowda 6-3, 6-3.
Women: 1-Hrideshi B Pai bt Dhavni Kaul 6-2, 6-3; Ananya Jain bt Hera V 6-0, 6-0; Nidi Burial Srinivas bt 3-Bharathiyana Babu Reddy 4-6, 7-6 (0), 6-4; Saiyette Rupesh Varadkar bt T Hamsika 6-0, 6-1; SR Ananya bt Reet Jhawar 6-2, 3-6, 6-4; Sonicka Jagdeeh bt Dhanashree Patil 6-1, 5-7, 6-4; Shreeniti Chowdary bt Sayesha Taneja 6-2, 6-2; Meghana GD bt Yahana Arora 6-1, 6-2.

Divine Right for main event

DELHI SELECTION

Ajay Sharma-trained Divine Right, to be ridden by K Sunny Kumar, is fancied to win the DRC Racing officials Cup, the feature event of the races on Wednesday. The first race starts at 2:45 pm.

1. Veer Yodha Plate 1000M: Salam Bhai 1; Jet Falcon 2; Weronika 3.
2. Ashwa Shakti Plate (Div I) 1600M: Ashwa Kanchenjunga 1; Lodge Keeper 2; Ashwa Parth 3.
3. Ashwa Shakti Plate (Div II) 1600M: Rinku Romeo 1; Ashwa Frankie2; Ashwa Yudhvir 3.
4. Surya Pratap Plate 1200M: Mighty 1; Miss Boost 2; Master Bomber 3.
5. DRC Racing officials Cup 1200M: Divine Right 1; Best In Business 2; Dubai Falcon 3.
6. Vijay Shree Plate 1400M: Heer 1; Nizbati Wings 2; Ashwa Denali 3.

Day's best: Rinku Romeo. **Jackpot:** 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6. **Treble:** 4, 5, 6.

Dean-Gagan all set for WRC3 debut

LAS PALMAS (SPAIN), PTI

TSI Racing will return to the global stage with Dean Mascarenhas and co-driver Gagan Karumbaiah set to make their FIA World Rally Championship debut in the WRC3 class at Rally Islas Canarias, beginning on Thursday.

The 50th edition of the rally, based in Gran Canaria, will feature 18 special stages covering 301.30km, run entirely on asphalt.

Driving a Ford Fiesta Rally3, the Indian duo will compete in a strong WRC3 field across the fast and technical tarmac stages over four days.

Dean Mascarenhas (left) and Gagan Karumbaiah

Their entry marks the return of a team that has long contributed to India's international rallying ambitions.

With support from PH Sport, Mascarenhas and Karumbaiah will look to make a smooth transition to the world stage.

The programme follows Mascarenhas' dominant 2025 Indian National Rally Championship campaign and signals a structured push into global competition.

Under its earlier Sidvin banner, the team had helped Indian drivers like Gaurav Gill and Naren Kumar break into the WRC circuit.

"Gagan and I have put in a lot of work together. We're going there to give it everything we've got," Mascarenhas said.

TCS World 10K raises over Rs 5 crore in charity

BENGALURU, DHNS

The 18th edition of the Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) World 10K Bengaluru, a World Athletics Gold Label Race, has raised over Rs 5 crore (Rs 5,06,11,698) till date, with the support of Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), corporates, run clubs and individual fund raises for philanthropy purposes.

The philanthropy drive has benefitted over 94 NGOs across 16 causes in 2026. Since its inception, the TCS World 10K Bengaluru has raised Rs 59.2 crore for more than 260 NGOs, the organisers stated.

This year, the fundraising leaderboard is currently topped by GoSports Foundation (Sports) with Rs 81.88 lakh, followed by the Right To Live (Education) and United Way Bengaluru (Poverty & Nutrition), both raising over Rs 38 lakh each.

In the education category, Child Rights and You (CRY) tops the charts with Rs 23.14 lakh while Reaching Hand is second with Rs 22.42 lakh. Gubbachi are third after raising Rs 15.77 lakh.

The top 10 NGOs collectively have raised Rs 2.35 crore so far.

Among the corporates, the ASM Technologies, in support of GoSports Foundation, have raised Rs 74.10 lakh. OpenText have contributed Rs 25.57 lakh for United Way Bengaluru and AtkinsRealis have raised Rs 25 lakh for Right to Live.

Usha Baliga tops the list among the individuals, raising an Rs 28.96 lakh for Bangalore Kidney Foundation.

The fundraising spotlight, however, was stolen by 11-year-old Siddharth, who volunteers with Charlie's Animal Rescue Centre (CARE), an organisation that works for the rescue and rehabilitation of injured animals. Siddarth raised over Rs 1 lakh.

The fundraiser will be open till May 9, a week and a half beyond the race day, scheduled on April 26.

AFI promises fix after AIU's unwanted doping tag

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) has tried to strike a measured tone after the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) placed India in the highest-risk 'Category A' for doping on Tuesday.

The Indian track and field body admitted it was a big setback and promised to clean up its system, adding: "AFI has consistently maintained that doping undermines the growth of athletics in India."

The federation claimed that they had been taking several anti-doping measures and "has actively collaborated with anti-doping bodies, both domestic and international, to strengthen education, enhance testing, and support intelligence-led investigations".

The body also added that it has advocated the need for stricter action at the grassroots, including criminalisation for those responsible for doping, as several minor athletes have flunked the dope test too.

While AFI claimed that AIU has recognised their "push for meaningful anti-doping reforms in India", the international athletics watchdog's view is far less comforting.

AIU chairman David Howman said India's doping problem "has been high-risk for a long time" and that the domestic anti-doping programme isn't proportionate to the doping risk. Cases from the recent past only reinforce that concern.

Among the prominent ones, women's discus throwers Kamalpreet Kaur, Seema Punia, javelin thrower Shivpal Singh, 400m runners MR Poovamma, VK Vismaya and Nirmala Sheoran were suspended after medalling or performing at the big-ticket events.

The AIU's report also emerged at a time when India is pushing hard to host the 2036 Olympics. Last year, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) had already flagged such concerns.

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